Gerry's Daily Blog Archives - July 2025

July 31, 2025

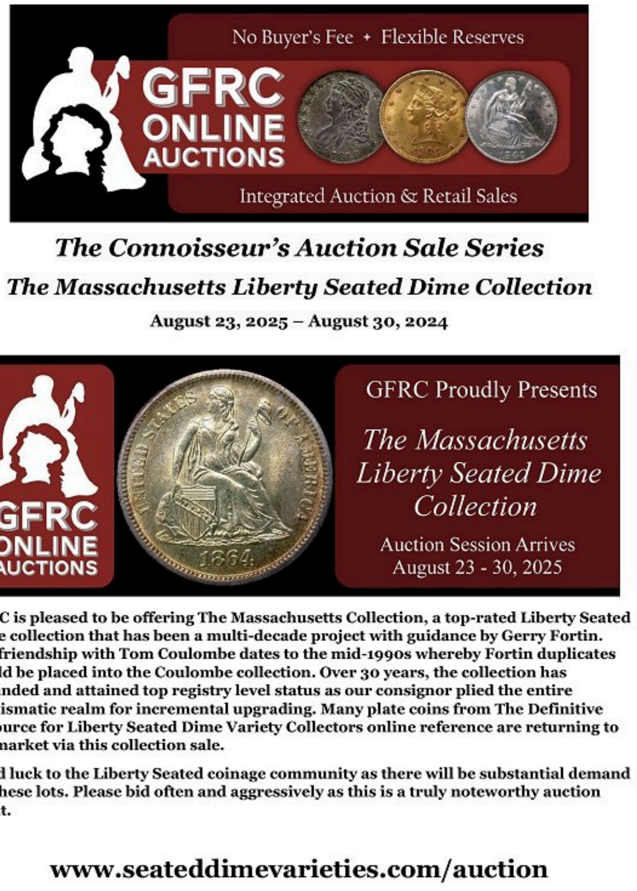
Massachusetts Collection PDF Auction Catalog is Available

and

Tom Coulombe's Liberty Seated Dime Numismatic Journey - *In His Own Words*

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on the final day of July 2025. Thank you so much for the visit.

Today edition is dedicated to Tom Coulombe and his new completed *Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection* auction catalog. The PDF formatted catalog has been uploaded to the server just in time for today's presentation. You are invited to click the below auction cover to gain access to the outcome and accomplishments of Tom Coulombe's three decade numismatic journey.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GFRC ONLINE AUCTIONS
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The Connoisseur's Auction Sale Series

The Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection

August 23, 2025 – August 30, 2024

GFRC ONLINE AUCTIONS
GFRC Proudly Presents
The Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection
Auction Session Arrives August 23 - 30, 2025

GFRC is pleased to be offering The Massachusetts Collection, a top-rated Liberty Seated Dime collection that has been a multi-decade project with guidance by Gerry Fortin. The friendship with Tom Coulombe dates to the mid-1990s whereby Fortin duplicates would be placed into the Coulombe collection. Over 30 years, the collection has expanded and attained top registry level status as our consignor plied the entire numismatic realm for incremental upgrading. Many plate coins from The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors online reference are returning to the market via this collection sale.

Good luck to the Liberty Seated coinage community as there will be substantial demand for these lots. Please bid often and aggressively as this is a truly noteworthy auction event.

www.seateddimevarieties.com/auction

Tom Coulombe's Liberty Seated Dime Numismatic Journey - *In His Own Words*

It is my honor to publish the following "in his own words" essay by Tom Coulombe as he accurately relates the many years of interactions and camaraderie between two enthusiasts of the Liberty Seated Dime series. There is little else that can be added other than I've always chuckled a bit when Tom employed the acronym "LSD" in lieu of writing out Liberty Seated Dimes. Enjoy!

It is now 2025 and my turn, as a steward of Liberty Seated Dimes (LSD), to release my collection.

While growing up, I was lucky ... as I had the experience of growing up very close to a popular coin shop. I could observe the mayor of my hometown, my mailman and others thronging into this shop to look over the glimmering displays of everything from half cents and colonials to silver dollars and commemorative coins. My earliest purchases were towards amassing a type set, starting with an 1864 two cent piece and an 1850 Liberty Seated dime (LSD). While silver dollars were the rage in the 1960's, I had to buy what I could afford ... which was very little and not very often. But as a teenager, I secretly vowed to myself to someday collect the entire LSD series.

In the 1990's, bidding on eBay became very exciting. LSDs on eBay were plentiful and starting prices were reasonable. It was tons of fun .... until I eventually encountered Gerry Fortin, aka: “dismeguy”, who was routinely outbidding me in virtually every ‘worthy’ eBay LSD auction. After introducing myself on-line to him as an ‘liberty seated dime enthusiast’, Gerry sent me an email telling me about his important and extensive LSD research, the LSCC and his willingness to introduce me to John McCloskey. Eventually, when Gerry started posting on eBay his own occasional auctions of his duplicates, I became a regular customer and my collection momentum was rolling. The ‘quality’ and photography of Gerry’s offerings were highly reliable.

Quickly, I needed to move these well-preserved LSDs out of folders and into a Whitman album to protect them. In the early 2000s, my local mentors were Ed Levanthal and Myles and Liz Coogan at JJ Teaparty in Boston. They recommended: “stay focused on one series”; “buy the very best ones”; and that relentlessly started happening when my job required working every Friday very close to Bromfield Street.

Finally, I tracked down and introduced myself to Gerry ‘in person’ at the Boston ANA in 2010. By then, I only needed ten Liberty seated dimes to complete my mostly ‘raw’ set. Gerry advised and assisted me toward ‘upgrading’ my collection into about eight blue boxes. I chose PCGS as my grading service and eventually became captivated with the mission of CAC toward reaffirming the validity of ‘grade correctness. With Gerry’s advice, quality was no longer a nebulous concept ... as the more and more coins that I examined and evaluated, the more confident I became towards amassing my satisfying and complete set of LSDs.

Starting in 2014, I was reading the GFRC blog every morning. In 2015, I traveled to Rochester, NY and brought my wife, Margaret, to meet Gerry and to view his LSD collection and, most importantly, to listen to various presentations by Gerry and John Frost at an autumn LSCC meeting. Suddenly, my wife was captivated and ‘all in’ towards the completion of this LSD collection. From that point on I was ‘upgrading’ almost monthly.

In subsequent years, Gerry asked me to be a ‘table assistant’; and I got to perform that role in Manchester, NH and in Philadelphia, PA and in Baltimore, MD. At SeatedFest II, I had the opportunity to meet Tom Bender and Dell Loy Hansen and to hobnob with them and some other “stellar” collectors who were amassing complete sets of LSDs. It was such great fun! Gradually, I was purchasing some lofty “CAC”-ed Carson City LSDs minted in the early 1870's. The 1874-CC arrived somewhat unexpectedly in 2023 via a GFRC auction with one last minute ‘wishful bid’. And after a few lay-a-way payments, I rendezvoused with Gerry in New Hampshire to hold it in my own hands. WOW! “Fait accompli!!”, I finally had the last one!

I am most grateful for all the valuable lessons and ‘hands on’ learning experiences which Gerry has bestowed upon me. In total, my pursuit of completing this LSD collection took almost thirty years. But now ... now that I am closer to ninety rather than to sixty years old, it is time for me to relinquish these mint state, “CAC”-ed and other motley toned lusty items to the next generation of striving collectors and stewards. It has been a highly satisfying, educational and rewarding journey!

Thank you, Gerry Fortin!

Wrapping Up The Blog

Again, thank you for the visit and sharing in this impressive event and special moment in time.

Now my attention moves to seeding the newly prepare area behind our incremental stone wall as rain is forecast for late afternoon and through the overnight.

Up next is the construction of the Tenafly Collection PDF auction catalog.

Be well!

July 30, 2025

Raw Liberty Seated Dime Web-Book Plate Coins Selling Quickly

Massachusetts Collection PDF Auction Catalog is 50% Complete

and

Seth Godin Blogpost - Most unreasonable

Greetings once again and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the ongoing patronage.

Another warm southern Maine day is in the cards as we close out the month of July come tomorrow. Life is a continuum as each day brings a routine here at the homestead and the GFRC office. There is no need to go into details but I find a personal routine to be satisfying. Meals are predictable as to timing and ingredients leading to a healthy lifestyle. The 5:00 PM happy hour is a reward for working through another office day and simply relaxing on the back deck in Maine or in the lanai if we are wintering in Florida. Another example of a lifestyle routine is composing the Daily Blog each morning after a YouTube breakfast. There is a chance to catch-up in overnight global news, the latest Red Sox game highlights, and the going chatter about if/when gold will be formally revalued by the United States.

There is not much fresh content for today's Blog edition, so let's move forward with the headlines.

Raw Liberty Seated Dime Web-Book Plate Coins Selling Quickly

Since the GFRC consignment window is close through tomorrow, this has been an opportunity to move through the August 23 auction preparations at a stress-free pace. The downside is that fact that I'm out of new purchases and consignments for keeping the 30 Day Price List fresh. My backup plan is to dip into several 2x2 double row boxes replete with raw Liberty Seated dimes accumulated during the 1992 through 2004 research period with many being plate coins within The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors online reference. To provide a sense of the number of remaining raw Seated dimes that need to be sold, here is visual proof.

From a financial perspective, it is much more lucrative to focus on selling these remaining Seated dimes than working through several large consignments. The individual return for these raw dimes is typically higher than the commission rate on consigned coins. This gets down to maximizing the value of my time, therefore I will continue to process and post more of these web-book plate coin Seated dimes through early August coupled with the opportunity to update the very old web-book images.

So far, the newly posted dimes are receiving strong demand and finding new homes quickly.

Massachusetts Collection PDF Auction Catalog is 50% Complete

Tuesday brought a hot Maine day that kept the Fortins indoors. Today's weather forecast is for similar conditions thus the likelihood that I will be working in the GFRC office the entire day. The seeding of the new area by the incremental stone wall will need to be delayed until Thursday.

Since working in the office, much progress was made with the Massachusetts Collection's forthcoming PDF catalog. As of this morning, the catalog is about 50% complete and will be finalized today. Once done, I will post the cover image to the Auction link that serves as an access point for downloading the PDF file.

Next on the agenda will be the Tenafly Collection catalog.

Seth Godin Blogpost - Most unreasonable

I had to chuckle when reading today's Seth Godin's blogpost. Was he referring to the Daily Blog? Please read on...

It’s tempting to go to an extreme. Unreasonable design standards, quality or hospitality are an effective way to gain share, delight customers and spread the word. To be unreasonable in service of your customers is a practice and a commitment.

Along the way, though, reality sets in. The boss has multiple priorities. The uncompromising edges of unreasonable are truly expensive. They take time and effort and money… and they’re unreasonable.

And so, we pull back a bit. We go much of the way, but not quite to ridiculous.

The thing is, rational, compromised unreason has a name: it’s called normal.

If you want the benefits that come from being unreasonable on behalf of your customers, you’re going to have to pay the price as well.

Unreasonable works precisely because most people aren’t driven to go all the way there.

Wrapping Up The Blog

OK, it looks like another GFRC office day is in store until the 5:00 PM happy hour. I've already discussed today's projects so let's close at this point.

Come August 1, the GFRC consignment window will be reopened for those that wish to consign coins. However, there are no promises that the coins will be ready for display at the Oklahoma City ANA show. With Matt and family returning to the homestead on Sunday, there will be an opportunity to spend time with Natsumi and Ayumi along with letting Matt become more proficient with Johnny2. During the last visit,

Matt quickly mastered the John Deere 2038R and helped build out the newly constructed stone wall. Here is an image of Matt working with the tractor.

Thanks again for the visit and please remember to be well!

July 29, 2025

Building PDF Auction Catalogs

Ray Dalio's Perspective on Holding Gold

and

New 30 Day Price List Additions

Greetings from southern Maine and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for the returning visit.

It is another beautiful early morning in the Pine Tree state with blue skies and lush green landscaping outside the office window. Today high temp will peak at 92F while the overnights are cooling down into the low 60s.

So what is on the agenda for today? Do I work outdoors and plant grass in the newly prepared area or do I sit in the GFRC office and build a PDF catalog for the Massachusetts Collection. My heart wishing to go outdoors but my commitment to the GFRC business and clients translates into another day in the office. At some point, that pendulum needs to swing closer to the outdoors.

Shifting the discussion to gold and silver, these precious metals are once again in consolidation mode. Silver is trading between $38 and $38.50 while gold is trending between $3300 and $3375. I continue to monitor the latest news and rumors on YouTube to stay abreast of the precious metal market and also for fun. Yesterday brought a rumor that the Chinese Communist Party has raised its gold holding target from 1% to 2% for its massive insurance industry. The 1% increase is equivalent to 25% of the world's annual gold mining output. Other news being reported is that major gold holders like central banks and sovereign wealth funds are now bypassing the LBMA and COMEX, and instead working directly with mining companies for sourcing precious metals. The less hands that handle a commodity, the lower the purchase price as everyone wants a cut for their involvement.

Here is an fresh article from Ray Dalio, a billionaire investment and founder of Bridgewater Associates. Dalio has become active on the financial interview channels with a recent interview with Tucker Carlson where he exposed Tucker's naivety concerning how the global financial system operates in conjunction with nation states and geopolitical interest. I'm seeing more YouTube videos featuring Ray Dalio, and even my own Merrill Lynch money manager is referencing Dalio.

With that background, here is a fresh Kitco website article discussing Dalio's interview as part of the CNBC Master Investors podcast series. The key point is that gold is a hedge against the devaluation of fiat money. Everyone who reads the Blog should be operating with this understanding as inflation eats away at the value of our savings. Unless we have investments that are appreciating 5-6% per year, we are falling behind in terms of the value of those investments as measure in current dollars.

Billionaire investor Ray Dalio continues to sound the alarm over the health of the global economy, citing unsustainable government deficit spending. He is advising investors to allocate around 15% of their portfolios to alternative currencies such as gold or Bitcoin.

The founder of Bridgewater Associates shared his dire economic outlook during an appearance on CNBC’s Master Investor Podcast on Sunday. Focusing on the U.S., he pointed out that while the government collects approximately $5 trillion in income, it spends $7 trillion.

"It's spending 40% more than it takes in, and it can't really cut spending because so much of it is fixed. It's accumulated a debt that's six times its income…," he said. "The credit system is like a circulatory system that brings nutrients—buying power—to different parts of the economy. If that buying power is used to generate income, then the income services the debt, and it's a healthy system. But when debts, debt service payments, and interest rates rise, they begin to crowd out other spending—like plaque in the circulatory system—creating a problem akin to an economic heart attack."

His comments come as U.S. government debt has surpassed $37 trillion.

Dalio noted that due to its persistent deficit spending, the U.S. government will likely need to issue nearly $12 trillion in Treasuries next year to service its debt.

"We are at the point of no return," Dalio warned, adding that the only remaining option is for the government to borrow more and rely on central banks to print money. He also cautioned investors that indicators such as the emergence of capital controls are beginning to flash warning signs.

Although Dalio focused on the U.S., he emphasized that all Western-led economies face similar challenges.

"Just like in the '70s or the '30s, they will all tend to go down together. We'll pay attention to their relative movements, but they will all decline in value—relative not to fiat currencies, but to hard currencies. And that hard currency is gold," he said.

Dalio pointed out that gold has already become the world's second-largest reserve currency, surpassing the euro earlier this year.

In addition to gold, he identified Bitcoin as an attractive monetary asset. However, he noted that it is still not in the same category as gold, primarily because he does not expect central banks to adopt it as an official reserve asset.

"I can't say exactly how effective it is as a form of money, but it's being perceived by many as an alternative," he said.

Regardless of the debate between Bitcoin and gold, Dalio emphasized that the key objective is to own assets that protect against broad-based currency depreciation.

He added that a neutrally balanced portfolio should include about 15% exposure to gold or Bitcoin.

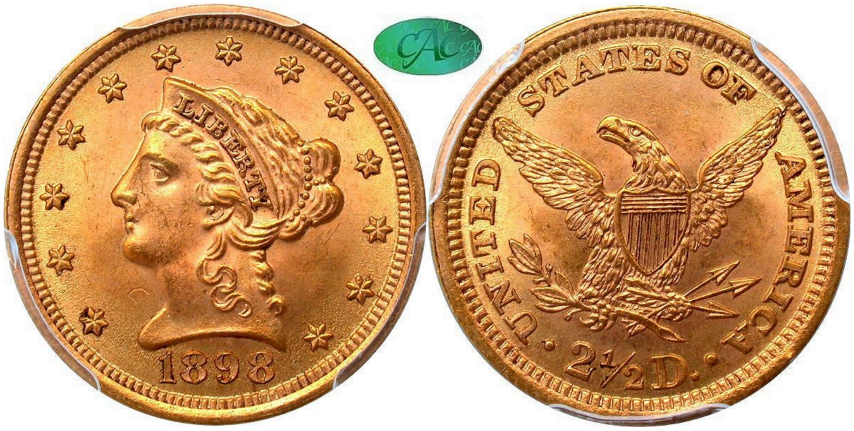
"In my own portfolio, I hold gold and a small amount of Bitcoin," he said. "I strongly prefer gold to Bitcoin—but that's up to the individual. The real issue is the devaluation of money."

New 30 Day Price List Additions

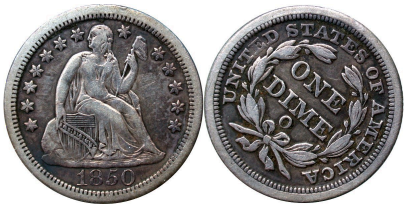
The 30 Day Price List is in need of attention. Yesterday brought the purchase of a nearly perfect 1898 $2.5 gold piece graded PCGS MS66+ with CAC approval. I also decided to visit my double row 2x2 box containing a host of raw web-book plate coins and selected eight Seated dime for the price list. I was able to get four piece ready for the 30 Day Price List including the 1898 $2.5 gold piece. Here is a quick gallery of the new offerings for today.

The 1850-O F-105a features a rotated reverse and is an R6+ rarity. This one is already on hold. Next is the 1871 F-105 which is the web-book plate coin with the image updates having taken place last evening. Finally, the 1872 F-102 is the Kamal Ahwash plate coin and a truly special offering for those that wish to preserve Liberty Seated numismatic history. There will be more web-book plate coins dimes being released today.

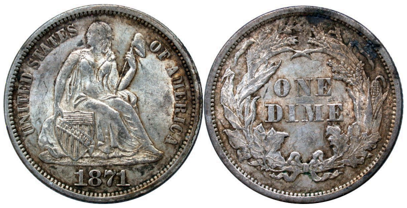
1898 PCGS MS66+ CAC G$2.5 - $3750



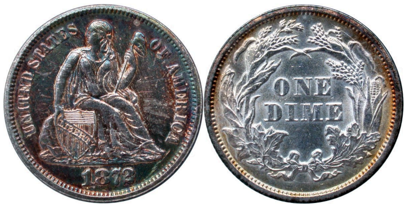
1850-O F-105a VF35 10C - $395



1871 F-105 MS62 10C - $375



1872 F-102 MS62 10C - $350



Wrapping Up the Blog

Light shipping is the first order of the day followed by an intense day at PDF auction catalog building. I will probably head outdoors on Wednesday morning to plant that newly prepared area as the temperatures are due to subside bit and rain is in the forecast for Thursday or Friday. Maine weather is quite erratic this time of year as one really never knows if rain will materialize. Planting grass if best done in early spring or early fall seasons. I'm pushing my luck by planting at the beginning of August but let's hope for the best.

Thank you again for stopping by.

Be well!

July 28, 2025

Ready for Grass Seeding!

and

Creating GFRC Online Auctions PDF Catalogs Week

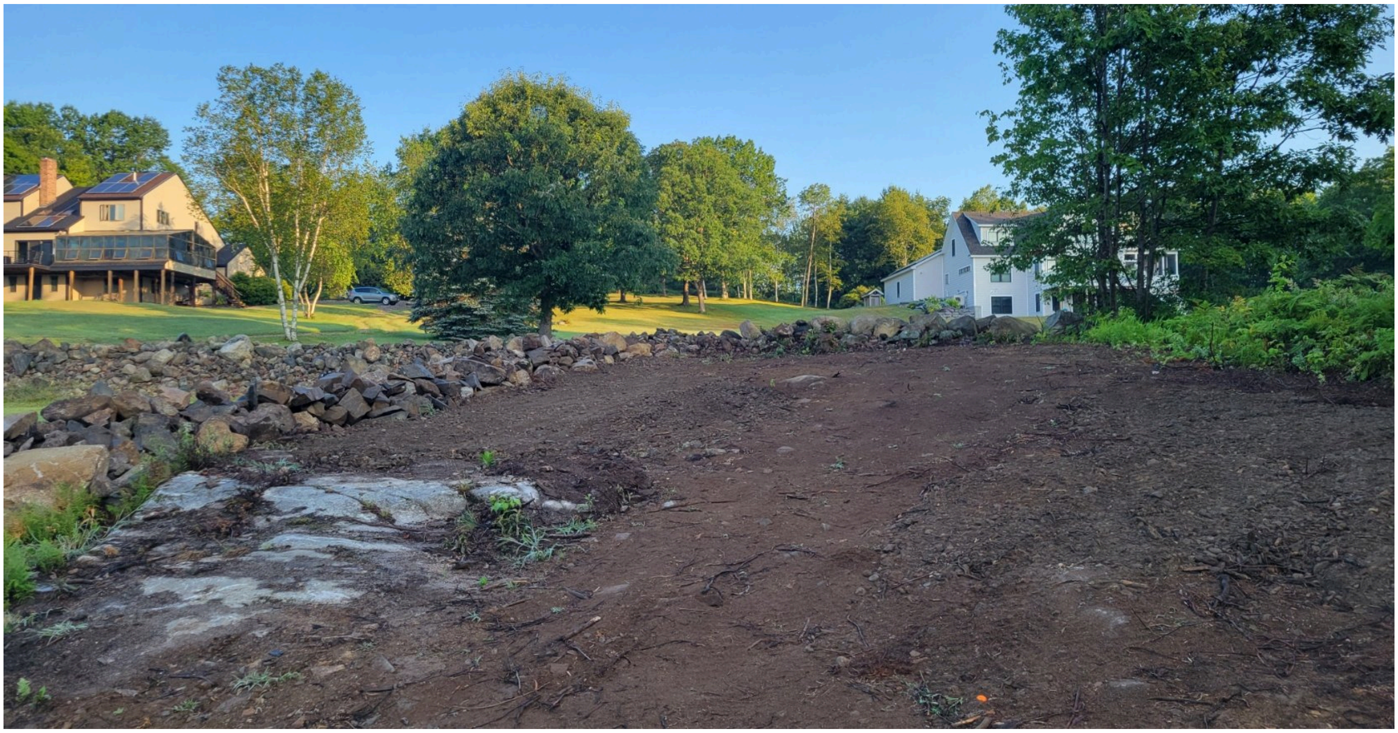
Greetings on a beautiful southern Maine morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. The final Monday of July 2025 is upon us with August being right around the corner. Thank you for the visit.

Taking a break from composing a Daily Blog edition on Sunday was just what the doctor ordered. I'm in a much happier place this morning after enjoying a 7:00 AM outdoor working start on Sunday with much accomplished before needed rain appeared during the afternoon and evening. Other than the sale of an 1868 NGC AU58 CAC $2.5 gold lot, the GFRC business was quiet throughout the day allowing focus elsewhere.

Of course, Diane is back home after a one week stay with Renee and family. Ivy is doing much better and learning how to operate with a cast on her left arm. Luckily, she is right handed.

Let's open today's Blog with an image just taken at 6:30 AM of the newly constructed stone wall and the adjacent area that was finalized for grass seed planting on Sunday morning. If there is one thing in life that I'm capable of doing well, it is planting grass that turns into a reasonably nice lawn. From the time I was a youngster, I was helping my father and grandfather with landscaping tasks which were mostly focused on preparing lawn beds. During my later teenage years, I worked part time for a contractor with a CASE tractor who did a host of jobs including planting lawn for newly constructed homes. Preparing and seeding a new lawn is just second nature, kinda like riding a bike.

Here is an uphill looking image with both the Fortin homestead and our neighbor's new home at the top of Ledge Hill. This prepared area straddles our mutual property line with full support from Rick and Sharon to take my park building efforts into their back property at will. The ledge outcrop, at lower left, will garner its own beautification attention at some point this week with a small shovel and broom for exposing the pure granite after decades of being buried in vegetation.



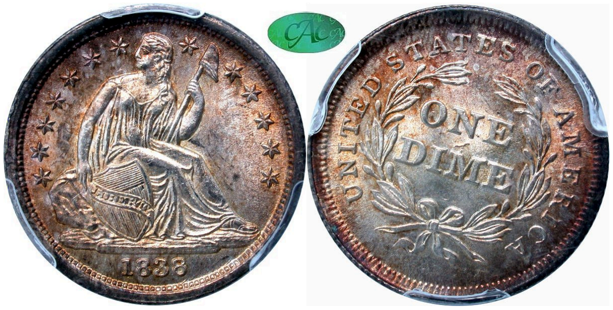
Creating GFRC Online Auctions PDF Catalogs Week

I'm both pleased and relieved to report that the August 23 online auction catalog is done with all descriptions in place. Now comes the task of building PDF auction catalogs for the Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection and also a second catalog for the Tenafly Seated Dime and $5 Gold Collection. Preparing these two catalogs is roughly a four day task if working diligently. If not being so diligent and distracted with new lawn planting, the task could extend into the coming weekend. At that point, Matt, Chikae, Natsumi, and Ayumi will be back at the homestead for another two week vacation from their downtown Boston condo.

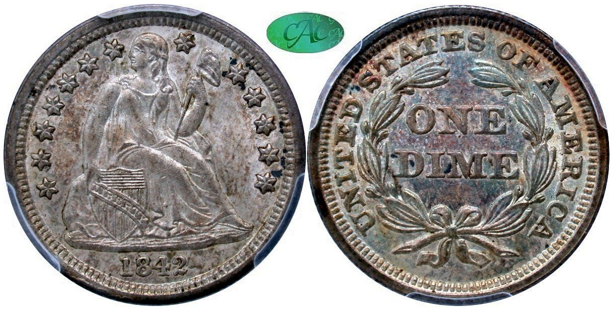
While wrapping up the descriptions on Sunday, there were incremental lots noted that deserve a shout out in the Blog. Please remember that the August 23 auction lots will be available at the ANA Oklahoma City World's Fair of Money show for review prior to bidding opening the evening of the final show day.

We open with the 1838 F-105 Reverse Flaw dime which is previously from my collection a web-book plate coin. The 1842 dime is very pretty in hand and should be examined during ANA lot viewing. The 1853-O quarter is not a huge coin but offers superb circulated eye appeal. The sleeper lot in this auction is the rare 1873 No Arrows Closed 3 quarter with CAC approval. Please do your research on this undervalued lot. The 1851-O half is a marvelous piece with strong mirrors and pretty toning. Finally, the 1852-C half eagle is a condition census lot that deserves attention.

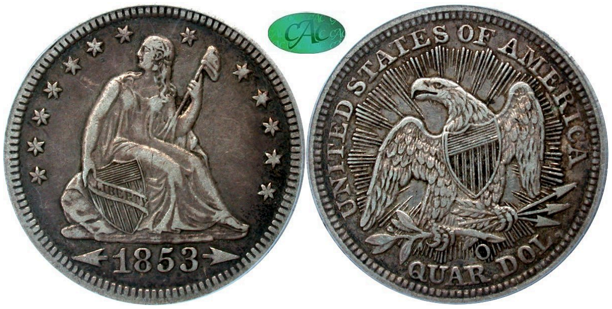
1838 F-105 PCGS MS64 CAC 10C - $3000



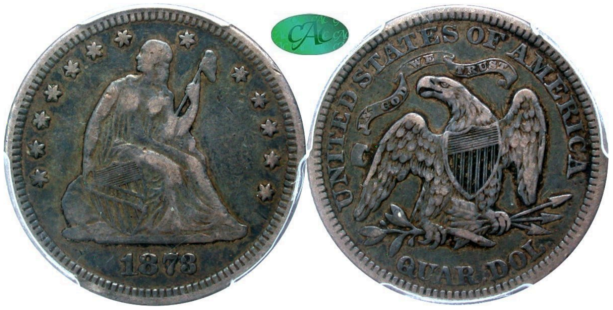
1842 F-107 PCGS MS65+ CAC 10C - $3750



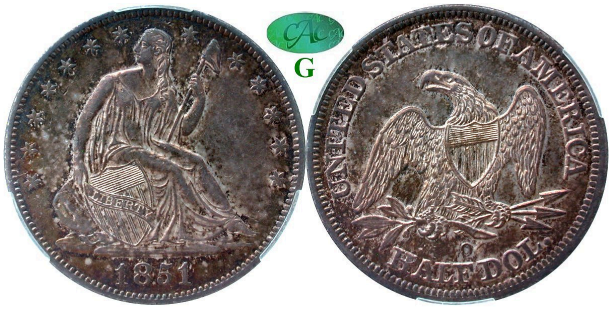
1853-O Br 2-C PCGS EF40 CAC 25C - $500



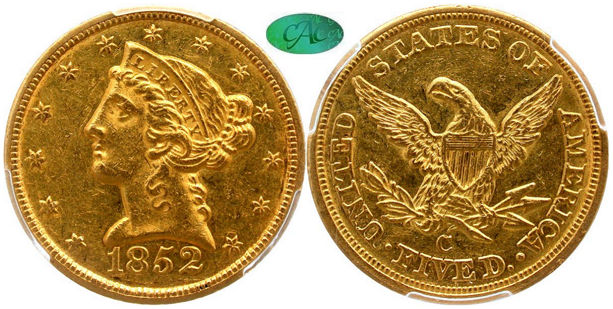
1873 No Arrows Closed 3 PCGS VF25 CAC 25C - $2350



1851-O WB-2 CACG AU53 50C - $2000



1852-C PCGS AU55 CAC G$5 - $7000



Wrapping Up The Blog

It is a Monday morning which means queued shipping has the priority followed by heading into Windham towards locating a notary. Hugh Woods has agreed to pay our claim for the four lost Liberty Seated San Francisco dimes with a final Proof of Loss document requiring my signature executed in front of a notary. While in Windham, there is the opportunity to stop at Lowe's for purchasing grass seed, fertilizer, and the all important two hay bales for covering the newly seeded area. We still occasionally see a large flock of wild turkeys roaming the back acreage and I'm certain that once the grass seed is planted, those turkeys will arrive on the scene. The Gamo air rifle will be readied if that occurs.

That is it for today's ramblings. Gold and silver are back in a consolidation mode after a failed breakout. Equities are slowing grinding upward as more trade deal are announced. The U.S. equities market is again over valued historically and at bubble level but passive investing by Americans into their 401K plans just keeps new money flowing into major ETFs which drives the equities market. It is a trend that is unavoidable so I'm moving some monies into equities.

Thank you for the visit.

Be well!

July 26, 2025

GFRC Online Auctions

August 23, 2025 Auction Sale Highlights

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on the final weekend of July 2025. Summer time is moving along much too quickly but this is how life happens. Finding time to execute our aspirations is paramount. Thanks for the visit.

There is little to report concerning my Friday other than a full day in the GFRC office wrapping up auction descriptions. By the 5:00 PM happy hour time, all the Tenafly and Massachusetts Collection descriptions had been finalized along with most of the incremental Liberty Seated quarter lots. The small remaining balance will be wrapped up this weekend at some point.

Now that we've moved through the description generation milestone, let's take a step back and review the significant of this forthcoming auction event. Here goes....

GFRC Online Auctions - August 23, 2025 Auction Sale Highlights

- The August 23 auction is one of the largest attempted in terms of the number of lots being offered. Last evening's count arrived at a total of 250 lots with two very impressive Liberty Seated dime collections, a noteworthy run of $5 gold that starts with a monster 1814/3 Capped Bust lot and wraps up with an 1894-S, and a host of important Liberty Seated quarters and halves.

- In one auction session, GFRC will be offering 192 CAC approved lots as an indication of the premium nature of this event. That is a 77% CAC approval rate or superior lots graded by CACG. Where else can collectors find this amount of green and gold bean lots in one auction event?

- The total reserves now exceed $520,000, an impressive number for an auction event being staged on the GFRC online platform. All offerings can be viewed and enjoyed by simply clicking on the above auction banners, or by clicking on this Auction link.

- The Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection presents a complete set with all key and semi-key dates. The lot count is 122 with reserves ranging from $425 to $23,500.

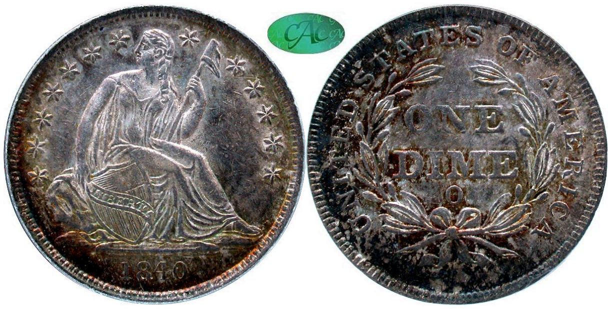
- The Tenafly Collection includes both Liberty Seated dimes and $5 Liberty gold with a total of 102 lot and reserves ranging from $125 to $7000. The Tenafly offerings bring a Liberty Seated dime die variety treasure trove that should garner substantial attention.

- Those collectors wishing to own plate coins from *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors* online reference will be happy to learn that there are 30 lots to consider. The distribution is 20 within the Massachusetts Collection and the balance in the Tenafly Collection. I suspect that this will be last major auction offering of plate coins from the Liberty Seated dime web-book. Over time, these dime will continue to be dispersed.

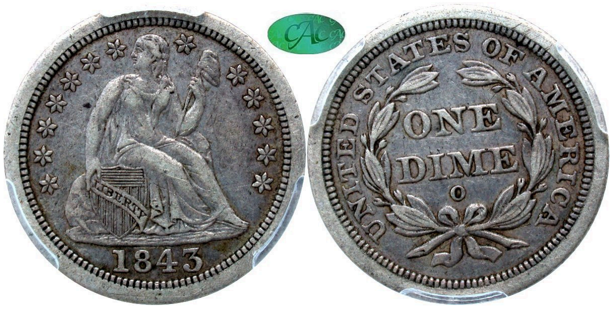
- Finally, there are a number of marquee lots that deserve serious attention. Here is a showcase gallery for some of my favorite Liberty Seated dime and quarter lots.

The Cataloger's Favorite Lots!

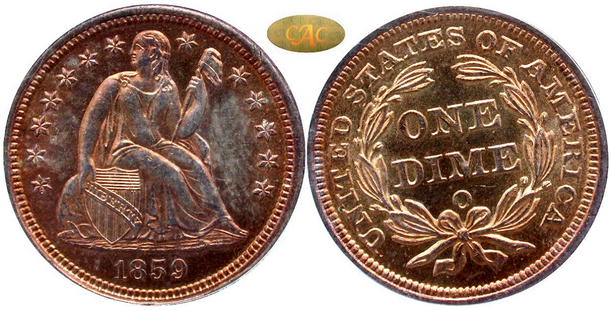
1840-O No Drap F-101a PCGS AU58 CAC 10C - $5500



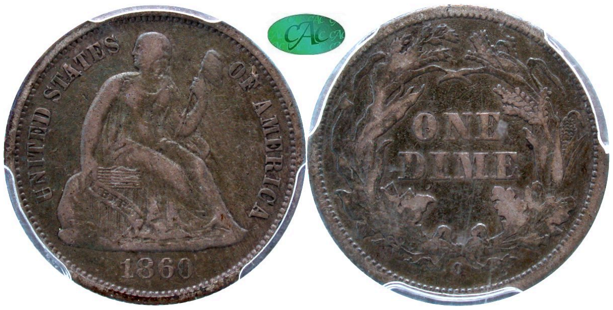
1843-O F-101 PCGS EF45 CAC 10C - $7500



1859-O F-103 PCGS MS63 GOLD CAC 10C - $2150



1860-O F-101 PCGS VF35 CAC 10C - $5000



1866-S F-101 PCGS MS64 CAC 10C - $12,500

1867-S F-102a PCGS EF40 CAC 10C - $1600

1873-CC Arrows F-101 PCGS F12 CAC 10C - $3150

1874-CC F-101 PCGS VF25 10C - $23,500

1875-CC BW F-103a PCGS MS62 CAC 10C - $1650

1877-CC F-123 PCGS MS64 CAC 10C - $1600

1843 CACG MS64 CAC 25C - $5500

1843-O CACG AU58+ CAC 25C - $4950

1849-O PCGS VF35 25C - $4850

1859-O NGC AU53 Gold CAC 25C - $2700

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a catch-up homestead day since Diane returns from Austin this afternoon. There is another round of grocery shopping necessary along with cleaning the untidiness of a bachelor's lifestyle. I will be stopping into Home Depot for more 30% Vinegar as a weed herbicide and weed mat for the newly cleared area. There will be more on the weed mat strategy in a future Blog edition.

Will there be a Daily Blog edition on Sunday morning? Right now, it is doubtful as I'd like to be on Johnny2 by 7:00 AM while the temperatures are still reasonable.

As always, thank you for taking the time to visit with me and these ongoing numismatic ramblings. If you always wanted to be a coin dealer, then I hope that this publication has shared insights into what it takes to be successful!

Be well!

July 25, 2025

Wrapping Up August 23 Auction Descriptions Today - For Sure!

Greetings on a southern Maine Friday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for checking in.

Another heat advisory is in effect for Maine and New Hampshire today which means that I will be staying indoors with the heat pumps keeping the homestead cool.

As much as I had hoped to wrap up the August 23 auction descriptions on Thursday leaving Friday as an open day for a 718 Boxster ride, the goal was not met. There was some morning shipping, a USPS drop-off and grocery shopping that pretty much consumed the morning. Good progress was being during the afternoon hours, but then several client phone calls arrived and before long it was time for the 5:00 PM happy hour on the back deck followed by grilling dinner. During the day, I was offered 100 and 10 ounce silver bars from a local clients which I passed on as my focus is adding more physical bullion to the gold stash. The news of losing Hulk Hogan after the passing of Ozzy left me in a bit of a reflective mood as life seems so precious once crossing the 70 year milestone.

Dave Wilkinson came by with his 16 yard "wheeler" dump truck and delivered separate loads of 3/4" crushed stone and another pile of loam tailings. There is now enough material to wrap up the leveling of the area behind the new stone wall. Once the weather cools down, I will be back on Johnny2 moving material around.

The GFRC order rate has been slow, been then again, I am not posting much into of new offerings to the 30 Day Price List. Once the August 23 auction preparations are behind me, then we can re-open the consignment window.

Finally, Thursday brought the purchase of a really sweet 1898 $2.5 Liberty gold piece graded PCGS MS66+ with CAC approval. This lot was offered during the afternoon from a long term client with a quick favorable response given the fair offer price.

That is the extend of today's ramblings as I'm heading to the shower for an early start to an all day session in the GFRC office. I WILL get the August 23 auction descriptions wrapped up today since Diane returns from Austin tomorrow.

Thank you for the visit.

Be well!

July 24, 2025

Wrapping Up August 23 Auction Descriptions Today

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the visit.

The routine of composing a Daily Blog edition can be demanding at times, especially with being cognizant of content creation. There are days when potential image opportunities magically appear in the course of a day. At other times, the focus is outside of creating content and moving forward with projects beyond the GFRC business. Defaulting to regular topics like precious metal updates is easy but has it limitations in terms of audience relevance.

So here I am on a Thursday morning will little to share other than what I ate for breakfast or current YouTube viewing. Both are not worth the time to discuss.

Wrapping Up August 23 Auction Descriptions Today

Tom Coulombe called into the office yesterday to report that is he enjoying reading the descriptions of his Liberty Seated Dime Collection pieces. During the conversations, we both realized that the auction opens in exactly one month's time. A quick schedule check indicates that I have three weeks left to complete the descriptions, build PDF catalogs, and finally, head to Staples to have a small number of paper catalogs printed for our consignor's fond memories and the Oklahoma City ANA show.

With that realization, and the forthcoming return visit of the Yamatin family come early August, it dawned on me that the description writing project phase needs to get wrapped up promptly as life always throws a curve ball or two at us.

Therefore, I will be working in the GFRC office throughout the day until those auction descriptions are done. Working outdoors will have to wait another day as there are no critical projects at this point.

That is it for today's Blog.

Be well!

July 23, 2025

Ozzy Osbourne Dead at 76

Gold and Silver Experience Technical Breakouts

and

A Marquee Addition to the GFRC August 23 Auction Event

Greetings on a Wednesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. We appreciate the ongoing visits.

It is another fine southern Maine weather day as we move into the final week of July 2025. Before long, August will arrive and the Yamatin family will be back to the homestead for another extended visit. We are so looking forward to having Ayumi here with her ongoing vocal energy and engaging personality.

Yesterday brought a decision to work in the GFRC office the entire day with the goal of making substantial progress with the August 23 auction descriptions. This decision was wise as there is a sense of relief this morning that the forthcoming auction preparations are now ahead of schedule. As of this morning, the descriptions for both the Massachusetts and Tenafly Liberty Seated dime collections are complete through the early 1880s. Preparing the remaining descriptions will be straightforward later this week. At this point, I am feeling good about spending time on Johnny2 and working outdoors today.

At the 5:00 PM happy hour mark, which is still observed though being solo at the homestead, the usual nuts and adult beverage were secured and I headed to the back deck for mental relaxation. FOX News was checked on the cellphone only to learn that Ozzy Osbourne had passed at the young age of 76. This was indeed a sad moment as another iconic musician, from the early 1970s, is no longer with us. As a teenager and young adult, I was a fan of Black Sabbath and Ozzy's unique voice. Yes, the music was loud and raunchy to many ears along with demonic lyrics. However, if sitting back and conducting critical listening of the first two Black Sabbath albums (Black Sabbath and Paranoid), one realizes that these four British lads were quite the studio musicians. The initial Black Sabbath album has been a favorite for decades. In honor of Ozzy, that album was streamed on our new Marshall sound box in the sun room while I contemplated memories of past teenage years.

Gold and Silver Experience Technical Breakouts

While working in the office, I was watching gold and silver precious metals experiencing a technical breakout to the upside via the Kitco website. As Blog readers are well aware, I've been a strong advocate for owning these two precious metals either as physical bullion, numismatic items, or via ETF or mining stock equities. Yesterday brought a gold breakout to $3430/oz after being in a consolidation pattern for several months. Silver also experienced an upside breakout to $39.20 with the $40 threshold now in sight. Silver continues to show more upward movement, as the Blog is composed, while gold is holding on to Tuesday's gains.

Last evening, I took in a fascinating Kitco interview with Judy Sheldon. Judy was President Trump nominee for the Federal Reserve board during his first term, but since being a firm critic of the Fed, her nomination did not succeed in the Senate. The interview was quite revealing concerning present Federal Reserve operations and liability risks. The video can be found on YouTube at

https://www.kitco.com/news/article/2025-07-22/fed-payouts-quiet-subsidy-congress-must-reassert-constitutional-power-over

A Marquee Addition to GFRC August 23 Auction Event

Yesterday also brought the arrival of a truly special gold lot addition to the forthcoming August 23 auction event. A long term GFRC consignor continues to slowly release his holdings and decided to "let go" a special Capped Bust $5 gold piece. Since not having the opportunity to photograph this new arrival due to its late Tuesday afternoon arrival, following are images from a prior Stack's Bowers auction appearance during August 2022 where it realized $24,000. All I can say is this is an exceptional example in a PCGS Gen 1.2 (1986-1989) holder with CAC approval. We are currently discussing the auction reserve with the consignor and should have this lot posted to the online auction catalog by Thursday morning.

1814/3 BD-1 PCGS EF45 CAC G$5 Rattler

Wrapping Up The Blog

Since making much progress with the online auction catalog, I will be heading to the back acreage this morning to continue preparing the areas near the new stone wall for grass planting. Loam tailing fill needs to be transported into low spots along with a host of smaller rocks being removed. Getting the surface rocks to go is paramount as every rock that remains behind will impact the eventually lawn mowing. The problem with surface rocks in Maine is the winter frost. Winter frost has a habit of pushing these rocks upward to the point that that are struck by the mowing tractor deck blades.

That is it for today's ramblings and updates. I will be in the office during the later afternoon hours to catch up with the day's email correspondences and potential orders. The shipping department is closed today.

Once again, we thank you for the time taken to stop by at the Daily Blog. And yes, today's date at the top header is accurate.

Be well!

July 22, 2025

Cleveland Collection Seated Dime Varieties are in Demand!

and

Spot Gold Makes $3400 Attempt, But Rejected

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Tuesday morning. Thank you so much for checking back in on my regular ramblings.

It is going to be a beautiful Maine day with sunny skies and a high temperature in the low 70s. What is a temporary single guy going to do on such an ideal weather day? Here are my options;

- Work in the GFRC office and continue to move towards completing the August 23 online auction catalog descriptions?

- Head outdoors and utilized Johnny2 to finish ground preparations in the new cleared area adjacent to the new stone wall towards planting a grass lawn?

- Jump in the 718 Boxster and drive solo to the Owl's Head Transportation Museum as was planned for this past Saturday?

The context is that I'm 69 and should be fully retired, but instead have decided to hold off retirement until age 70 which makes sense from a financial perspective. I love the GFRC business and the many client relationships. But time keeps moving on and there are many other aspects of life that can't be explored when sitting in a numismatic office processing coins or writing auction descriptions. If Diane was home, she would choose the third option.

If you were in my shoes, what selection would you make? Just food for thought as coming up with daily content for the Blog requires occasional transparency and a little fun.

After checking the Raymond weather forecast, a plan of action was formulated. I'm going to write auction descriptions today and hopefully make considerable progress by the day's end. On Wednesday, the GFRC office will be opened but I will be spending a full day working in the back acreage with Johnny2. The trip to the Owl's Head Museum will be considered for later this week or when Diane returns from Austin.

Now we can move on to the headline topics....

Cleveland Collection Seated Dime Varieties are in Demand!

Monday brought a banner sales day for the new Cleveland Collection Liberty Seated dime consignment. As of this morning, six of the thirteen dimes are already on hold and die variety collecting is alive and well on our community. After this Blog edition is uploaded, a 30 Day Price List refresh will be conducted to illustrate those lots that are on hold and those that are still available.

Congrats to our consignor as the proceeds will help secure early access to one or more of the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection lots that are on extended payment.

This is the secret of those who build substantial collections over a long term basis. The release and sale of duplicates is a core step towards upgrading. The released duplicates head back into the marketplace and provides another collector with an opportunity to enjoy their hobby. It is a win-win for everyone!

Spot Gold Makes $3400 Attempt, But Rejected

The old saying, *close but no cigar*, comes to mind after watching spot gold trading on the Kitco website while working in the office on Monday. It was a strong day for precious metals and the mining sector as gold made a run at the $3400/oz mark. By end of day, several attempts to pierce the $3400 level had been rejected by sell orders that were staged directly below the $3400 threshold. Gold close at $3398/oz and has slipped about $10 during early LBMA trading.

Silver was not to be ignored as it made a run for the $39 mark on Monday and can up about $0.15 short. Morning LBMA trading has silver at $38.76/oz.

The same fundamental issues that were in place on Monday remain today. Global gold and silver demand is outstripping supply while the major banks continue to attempt price control via an over leveraged paper market in London and Chicago.

Have readers noted that all of the talk of auditing the gold in Fort Knox has disappeared? Sure, as U.S. citizens we are constantly reminded that the gold is there. However, my gut feel is that this gold has been leased via rehypothecation and may not be fully available. A detailed Fort Knox audit could be embarrassing if this is the case and would cause a run on physical gold if acknowledged. What is rehypothecation and its risks? Let's ask AI Copilot for some help as a learning exercise.

What Is Rehypothecation?

- Rehypothecation occurs when a financial institution uses assets pledged by a client as collateral for its own borrowing or trading activities.
- In the gold market, this means that gold held in custody—often in vaults—is used by the custodian (like a bank or broker) to secure its own obligations, even though the gold technically belongs to the client.

How It Plays Out in the Gold Market

Allocated vs. Unallocated Gold:

- *Allocated* gold is stored in a vault under the client's name and cannot be rehypothecated.
- *Unallocated* gold is pooled and not specifically assigned to any client, making it vulnerable to rehypothecation.

Execution Process:

- A client stores gold with a custodian, often under an agreement that allows rehypothecation (usually buried in the fine print).
- The custodian lends out that gold to other parties—sometimes multiple times—often in exchange for lower storage fees or other financial incentives.
- The same gold bar may be pledged as collateral for several different transactions, creating a layered web of claims.

Paper Gold Instruments:

- Futures contracts, ETFs like GLD, and other derivatives often represent claims on gold that may be rehypothecated.
- These instruments can multiply the number of claims on a single ounce of physical gold, leading to systemic risk if many holders demand delivery at once.

Risks and Controversies

- Ownership Confusion: If a custodian defaults, clients may become unsecured creditors rather than rightful owners of the gold.
- 2008 Financial Crisis: Rehypothecation played a role in the collapse of firms like Lehman Brothers and MF Global, where client assets—including gold—were used to cover institutional debts.
- Audit Challenges: Countries like Germany have faced delays when requesting repatriation of their gold, raising concerns about whether the gold is physically available or has been rehypothecated.

Wrapping Up The Blog

OK, let's move forward with another office day and making substantial progress with the August 23 auction descriptions. This means I will be in the office the entire day grinding it out at the laptop.

So ends this morning's ramblings. Thanks again for visit.

Be well!

July 21, 2025

Cleveland Collection Seated Dime Varieties to Consider

GFRC August 23 Auction - Seated Dime Descriptions Completed Through 1870

and

London Exchange Close to Exhausting Physical Silver Float

Greetings on a late July Monday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for the returning visit.

Sunday brought an unannounced holiday for the Daily Blog as I just felt like enjoying a mindless lazy morning. Diane's sudden Austin trip upset a planned schedule and thus the decision to simply chill out for once. The writing break was overdue and welcomed. Now we are back with decent content and a regular edition.

Let's open today's edition with a picture taken on July 11 by Chikae. Chikae has been the Daily Blog staff photographer when the Yamatin family is visiting the homestead and provides much needed new content. The backstory is that Matt had planned to go "camping" in the backyard gazebo with older daughter Natsumi before returning to Boston. Time was running out and the decision was made that the evening of July 11th would be the special day for going camping. Matt was brave and took not only Natsumi, but also Ayumi for the overnight adventure. He reported that our homestead wifi signal was strong enough for streaming a movie as entertained before all three retired in two sleeping bags.

This image captures the backyard with the campers inside the gazebo on a full moon evening. The careful placement of solar lighting to accentuated the barn and gazebo view, from the homestead, becomes readily apparent via this picture.

Let's move on to today's numismatic content, shall we?

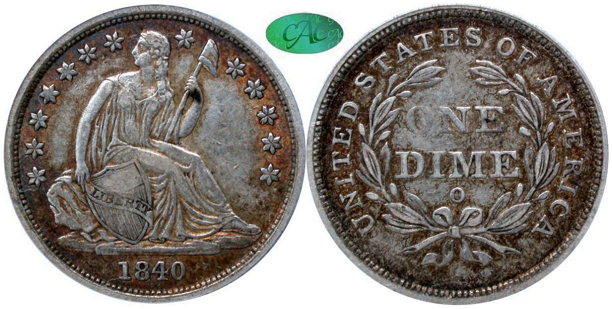
Cleveland Collection Liberty Seated Dime Varieties to Consider

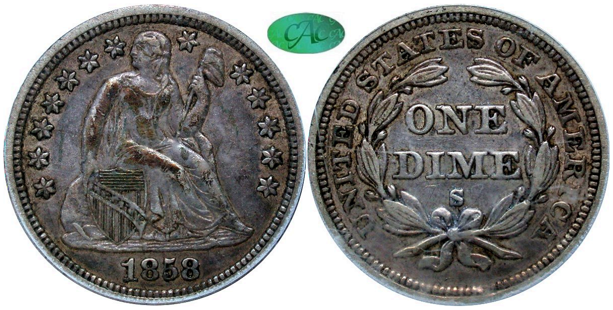
The Cleveland Collection is one of the most prolific Liberty Seated dime die variety collections in our community, and probably on the planet. Our long term client was a substantial buyer in the recent Connoisseur's series auction sale of the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection and needs to sell duplicates to keep the upgrading process moving forward. We are pleased to be offering a lot that is replete with Top 100 Varieties and also Ultimate Set candidates. Both sets can be viewed on the GFRC Open Set Registry.

The gallery showcase opens with a super nice 1840-O Medium in an early die state with the reverse vertical crack at 12:00. The originality is superb and will please the most demanding collector. Next is a wonderfully original 1858-S F-103 dime with CAC approval. This date is nearly always problematic due to circulation in California mining towns, therefore the CAC population is tiny. A real treat is the arrival of an strictly original 1870-S dime with crusty gray surfaces as the date's mintage is only 50,000 with few survivors. The marquee display closes with an important 1878-CC Type 2 reverse F-104 with a heavily polished reverse die. I've seen few of this variety with the PCGS MS64 CAC specimen, in my personal collection, selling for over $10,000.

1840-O F-106 PCGS EF45 CAC 10C - $1350

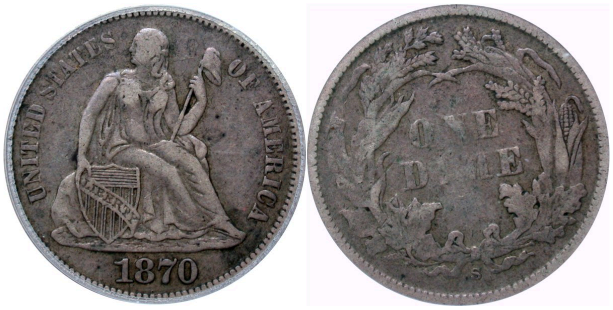
1858-S F-103 PCGS EF45 CAC 10C - $3250

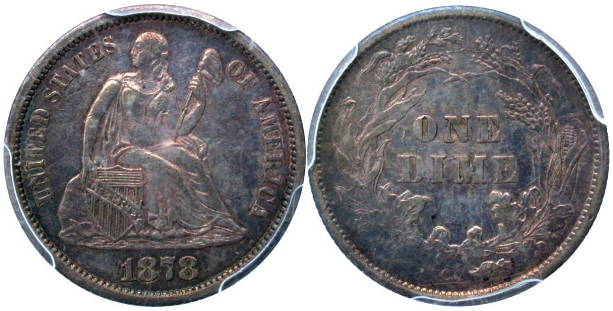




1870-S F-101 PCGS VF35 10C - $1500

1878-CC F-104 PCGS AU50 10C - $1600



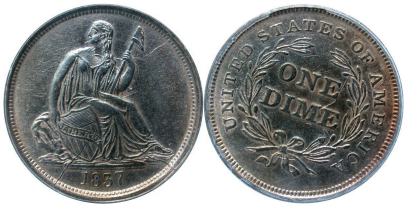


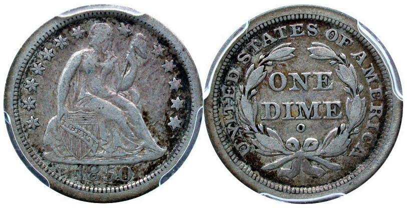
Incremental Cleveland Collection offerings include an 1837 F-101c with very bold die clashing and die crack diagnostics. The 1855 F-101a is most likely the rarest dime in this entire showcase as few examples have surfaced in my decades of studying the series. A few circulation strike were coined from the original proof dies that exhibit bold die doubling on the date. The 1868-S dime is the F-101a variety with strike doubling in the lower wreath. For those pursuing the Top 100 Variety set, the 1887-S F-104 is quite difficult to locate with this lot being inexpensive.

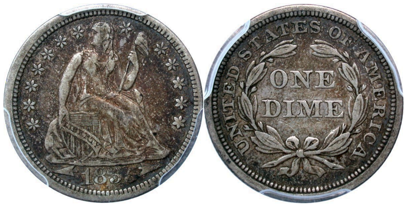
1837 LD F-101c PCGS AU50 10C - HOLD

1850-O F-103 PCGS VF30 10C - $325

1855 F-101a PCGS EF40 10C - $450



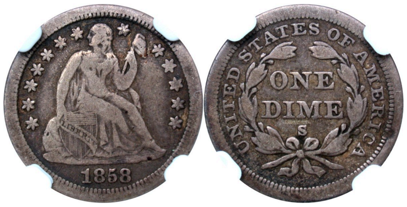


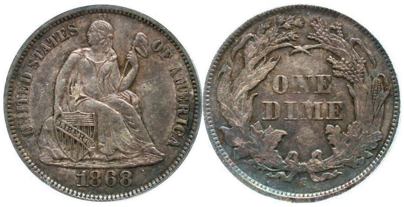


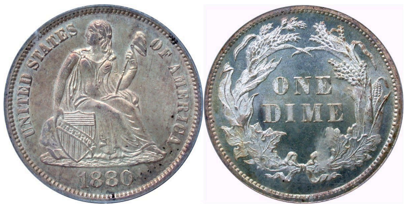
1858-S F-103 NGC F15 10C - $675

1868-S F-101a PCGS AU53 10C - $825

1880 F-102a PCGS MS64 10C - $750







1887-S F-104 PCGS VF35 10C - $150

1889 DDR F-106 PCGS MS63 CAC 10C - $600

1891-O O/Horiz O ANACS EF45 10C - $485

Nearly all of these lots are now posted to the 30 Day Price List and available other than the 1837 F-101c while was immediately purchased on Sunday afternoon.

GFRC August 23 Auction - Seated Dime Descriptions Completed Through 1870

The southern Maine rains arrived late Sunday morning and continued with a constant flow of thunderstorms during the afternoon. The wet weather kept me in the GFRC office the entire day with the Cleveland Collection consignment having initial priority followed by completing more descriptions for the forthcoming August 23 Auction event.

At this point, the online auction catalog, which features the Massachusetts and Tenafly Liberty Seated Dime Collections, now has descriptions completed through 1870 as this was my focus into the 5:00 PM happy hour. During the coming week, the balance of the descriptions will be completed followed by building separate PDF catalogs for our two long time friends.

London Exchange Close to Exhausting Physical Silver Float

Gold is trading at $3370/oz in London while silver is holding recent price gains at $38.40. The mining sector has been weak as of late as gold's consolidation period is unable to draw new monies into the miners. Key is that gold breaks through the $3400 level again and starts a new consolidation phase between $3400 to $3500 for the miners to gain renewed traction. The more I learned about how the LBMA and COMEX, the more evident it becomes that both precious metal pricings are manipulated by endless paper trading by the major banks. The 2025 gold breakout was due to the Shanghai Gold Exchange finally exerting pricing discovery for Asia buyers that could no longer be suppressed by western banks and the U.S. Federal Reserve. Now silver is positioned to seriously breakout as the LBMA float (physical silver for delivery) is down to 90 millions ounces. As Asian buyers continue to take delivery of what remains on the LBMA, the highly leverage paper market will run out of physical silver to leverage. Once this manipulation is terminated, silver could easily rise to $50/oz or higher.

For giggles, I asked AI Copilot this question, "are there any forecasts for when the LBMA will exhaust its physical silver float?" with the following response as validation of thoughts shared in the prior paragraph.

There’s no official forecast from the LBMA itself predicting an exact date for exhaustion of its physical silver float—but analysts and institutions are sounding alarms about tightening supply and potential short-squeeze risks.

Key insights from recent reports:

- **TDS (TD Securities)** warns that only about **90 million ounces** of silver remain in the LBMA’s “free float”—the amount available for daily OTC trading. If ETF demand surges or the Fed eases monetary policy, this buffer could be entirely eroded.
- **ANZ Bank** highlights a historic supply dislocation in the London market. LBMA silver inventories have dropped by **128 million ounces** since November, while borrowing costs spiked to **7%** in January. The LBMA silver-to-ETF holdings ratio has fallen to **1**, signaling extreme scarcity.
- **Scottsdale Bullion & Coin** and other analysts expect silver prices to surge toward **$45/oz** in 2025, driven by central bank activity, geopolitical risks, and U.S. monetary policy. These factors are increasing demand while supply remains structurally tight.

Structural deficit outlook:

- Global silver mine production is expected to rise only 2% in 2025.
- The market remains undersupplied by **180 million ounces**, continuing a multi-year deficit trend.
- U.S. domestic production covers less than 30% of its demand, with tariffs threatening key import sources like Mexico and Canada.

In short, while no one’s putting a date on it, the writing’s on the vault wall: the LBMA’s physical silver float is under serious pressure. If investor demand spikes or geopolitical tensions escalate, a squeeze could materialize faster than expected.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Since Diane is in Austin for the week, all aspects of the GFRC operation falls back on me. This morning brings time in the shipping department followed by a 718 Boxster ride to the Raymond PO to discharge those packages. Afterwards, I will be again focused on the August 23 auction catalog as will feel incredibly better once all descriptions has been completed.

The GFRC consignment window continues to be close and will remain this way through the end of July 1. Once August arrives, I will re-open the window and start soliciting new consignments that will be processed after the Oklahoma City ANA show along with new purchases from that event.

So ends today's Blog edition. Thank you again for the ongoing visits.

Be well!

July 19, 2025

Granddaughter Ivy Breaks Arm - Diane Flies to Austin

and

1885-S PCGS MS65 CAC 10C on Hold!

Greetings on what is planned to be a short Daily Blog edition as I was up quite early transporting Diane to the Portland airport. Life is never dull!

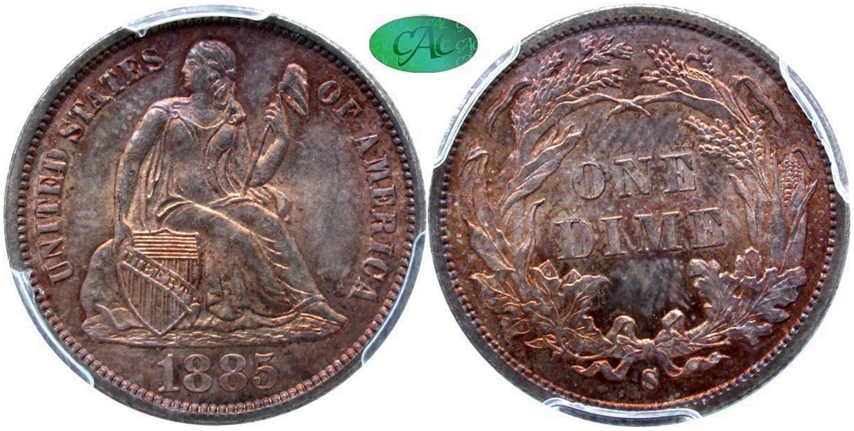
Diane and I had planned for a laid back 718 Boxster drive to the Owl's Head Transportation Museum near Rockland today as the Maine weather is ideal for a top down drive. However, our plans changed quickly after Meme's help was needed caring for granddaughter Ivy after having surgery to repair a badly broken arm. Ivy was at a friend's home and doing twirls on a bed and fell to the floor after losing her balance. The break was near the elbow and required surgery and pins on her left arm. Ivy is now back home from the hospital and will need special help while her parents are working.

Diane is already on her way to Austin Texas as the Blog is composed leaving me as the solo GFRC operator for the week.

1885-S PCGS MS65 CAC 10C on Hold!

The major numismatic news of the day is that the amazing 1885-S PCGS MS65 CAC dime from my personal collection is now on hold. The same client who purchased my 1874-CC PCGS EF45 CAC dime has decided to add the 1885-S to his superb collection. If checking the price list, this lot has not been marked on hold as of yet. This will take place during the next website upload today.

1885-S F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C



Our congratulations go out to this GFRC client for his noteworthy acquisition of what is possibly the finest 1885-S extant. Those of you who have seen this dime may concur.

Wrapping Up The Blog

My apology for the today's brief edition. Sunday will bring regular ramblings.

Thank you for the visit. Be well!

July 18, 2025

Platinum and Palladium Prices Surging Higher

Ledge Hill Park Expansion Progress

and

More CACG Custom Label Documenting Liberty Seated Dime Web-Book Plate Coins

Greetings on a July Friday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Here comes another round of random ramblings that hopefully will make the visit worthwhile.

Let's open with the precious metals if I may...

The big story is no longer gold and silver, but platinum and palladium. These latter two metals are on a valuation tear and appreciating quickly. For example, palladium has increased from $1000/oz in early June with this morning's quote being $1325. That is an amazing appreciation in less than two months and warrants an explanation. Let's bring in AI Copilot to help understand the fundamentals that are driving prices dramatically higher. The question was phrased as, "Why are platinum and palladium prices increasing so quickly since June 2025?"

Following is the response:

The sharp rise in platinum and palladium prices since June 2025 is being driven by a mix of supply constraints, industrial demand, and investor sentiment. Here's a breakdown of the key factors behind the surge:

Platinum: A Perfect Storm of Scarcity and Demand

1. Supply Disruptions - South Africa, which produces ~70% of global platinum, has faced severe output declines due to: - Mine closures - Labor disputes - Power and water shortages - Recycling volumes have also dropped, tightening overall supply

2. Industrial and Jewelry Demand - Automotive sector: Hybrid vehicle production is rising, increasing platinum use in catalytic converters - China's jewelry market: Demand surged 26% in Q1 2025, as consumers shifted from gold to platinum due to affordability - Hydrogen fuel cell tech: Emerging applications are boosting long-term industrial demand

3. Investor Appetite - Platinum is seen as undervalued compared to gold, prompting a 300% increase in investment demand in Q1 2025 - Tariff fears and geopolitical uncertainty have led to precautionary stockpiling in the U.S. and China

4. Price Performance - Platinum hit $1,432.60/oz in early July, up 40% in H1 2025 and 28% in June alone

Palladium: Riding Platinum's Coattails

1. Substitution Effect - Palladium is a substitute for platinum in catalytic converters. As platinum prices rose, palladium demand increased by association

2. Supply Deficit - Despite long-term forecasts of surplus, palladium is currently in a supply deficit, with mine output lagging behind demand - Russia's Norilsk Nickel, a major producer, delayed furnace upgrades due to sanctions, reducing supply

3. Price Surge - Palladium rose from $908.50 in January to $1,304.00 by mid-July, a 44% increase

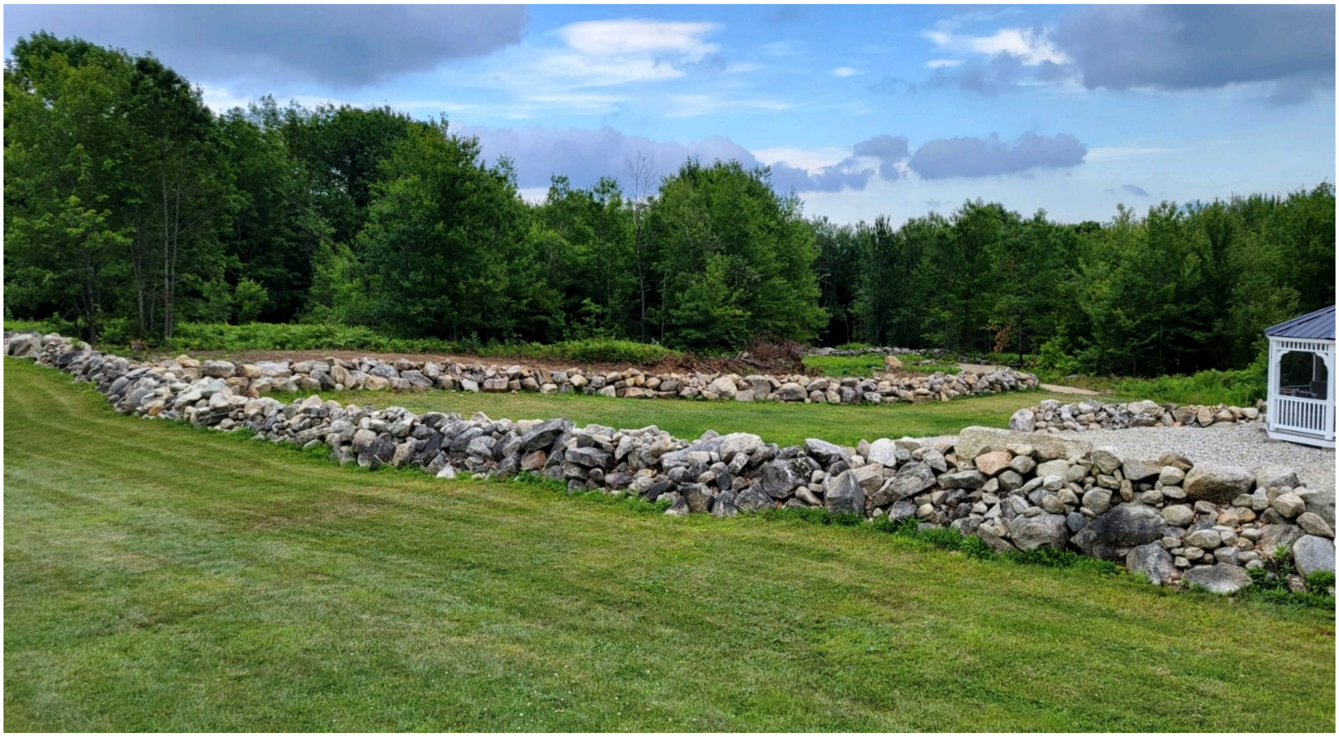
Forecasts suggest it could reach $1,572 by year-end, a 73% annual gain

Ledge Hill Park Expansion Progress

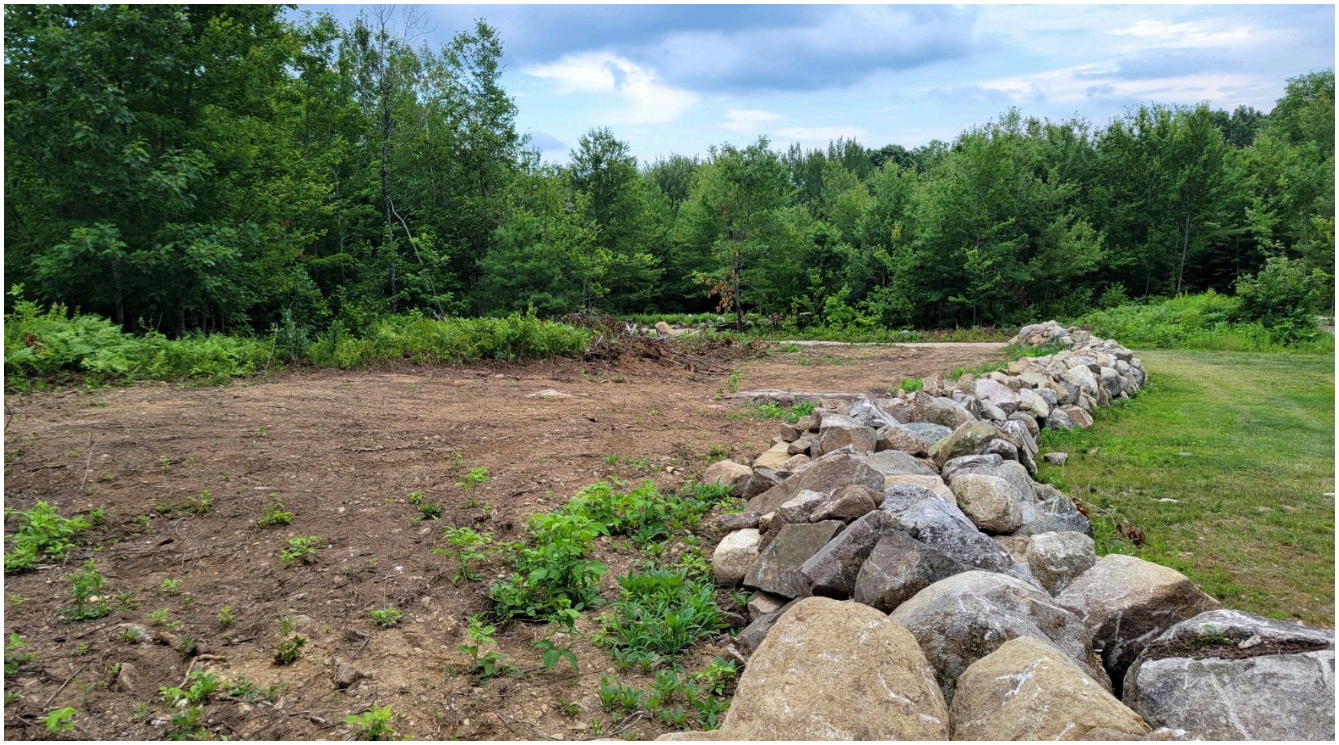
At this point, Daily Blog readers have recognized that I am committed to building a "park" within the confines of our back 20 acre lot. For new Blog readers, the Fortins purchased this 23 acre lot way back in 1985 for roughly $1000/acre. The lot shape was odd with a 3 acre access plot to a rectangular shaped 20 acres parcel without an road frontage. The 3 acre plot was ideal for constructing a passive solar/super insulated home, while the rest of the land was a bonus for future usage. The deed had a restriction that the lot could not be further subdivided which ruled out a housing development buyer. Luckily, we came along and feel in love with the coastal views from the top of Ledge Hill and moved within 48 hrs on the purchase.

For the past four years, my summer enjoyment in Maine lies with developing those back 20 acres into a "park". A John Deere 2025R tractor was purchased and Dave Wilkinson was hired to start the clearing process. Any project of this size requires what I call infrastructure or access paths to the areas being cleared and developed. Primitive paths were cut and before long, we had a nearly 1 mile walking loop at the 20 acre parcel's perimeter. The JD2025R tractor was much too small for the challenges and was traded in against a JD2038R with comes with a 3-Series frame size and turbo charged 38hp diesel motor. The barn was constructed followed by burying a former burn pit with countless loads of cheap fill before constructing a number of new stone retaining walls and adding the gazebo.

This spring brought the next expansion with the clearing of the left side of the property and adding yet another substantial rock wall. In today's Blog, several progress images are shared. We open with a view of the property as I am facing mostly northwest. The newly constructed rock wall is now taking shape as more and more stones are added to increase the girth and height. We have an endless supply of granite on the property so the only limiting factor to rock wall building is the transport of the stone to the wall. Behind the new wall is a cleared area that is quite steep. The goal is to turn this area into lawn as I've learned that a lawn (with crushed stone drainage channels) is the best form of ground cover that is easy to maintain.



This image was taken at the intersection of the newly constructed wall and the original settler's stone wall that runs perpendicular to the homestead. The new wall's width is evident in this image along with the just cleared soil. The downhill slope is considerable and not accurately illustrated in this image. I've been spending several hours per day moving the cleared brush, roots, and stumps from the left side of the expansion down to a long term compost dump site further down the property.

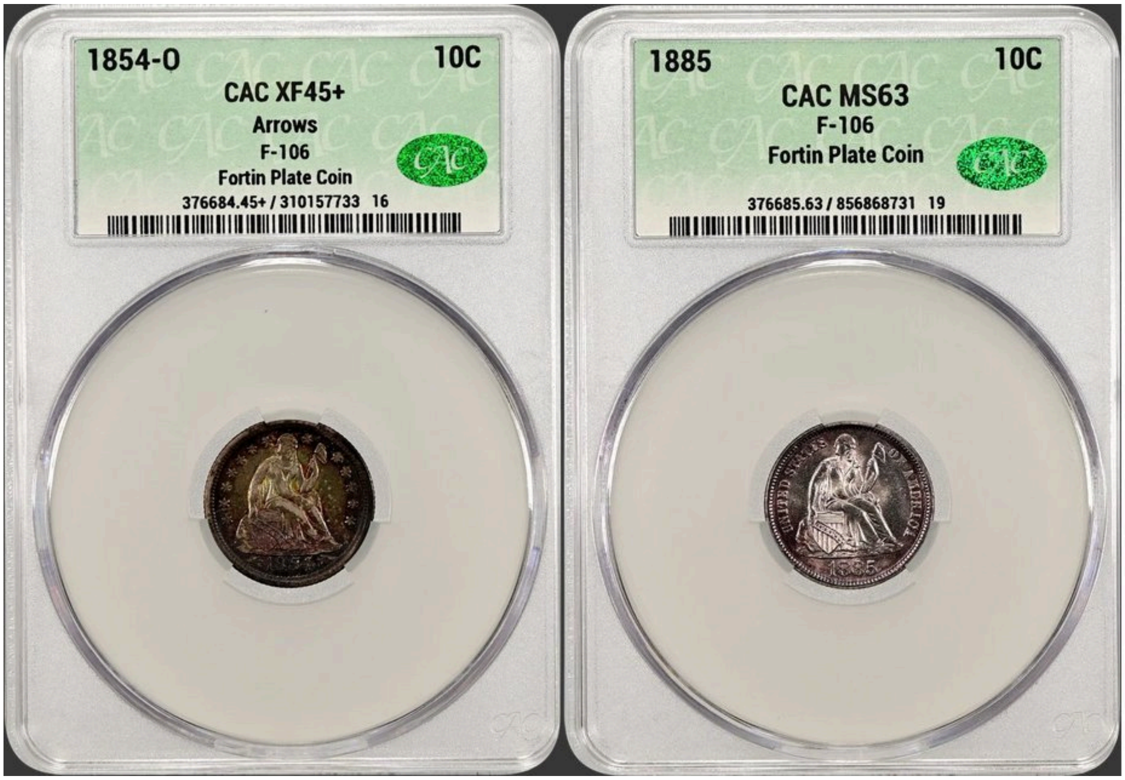


This final image is a straight ahead picture of the newly cleared area and better illustrates the slope. The exposed rock about midway is a large piece of granite ledge that will be further cleaned and will become a nice highlight for the forthcoming lawn. The residual brush can be seen opposite the exposed ledge and is on today's menu for incremental removal.

The next major step is filling in low spots with last week's loam tailing delivery by Dave Wilkinson along with tractor backdragging to expose the last of the surface rocks and roots for removal. I'm hoping for a major rain event that will map out how water will flow downhill in this area. The erosion channel will be filled with rip-rap sized stone and regular 3/4" crush stone before moving to the lawn seeding phase. .

More CACG Custom Label Documenting Liberty Seated Dime Web-Book Plate Coins

Yesterday's Blog segment concerning CACG and new customized labels with Fortin die varieties and web-book plate coin designation was responded to by a long term Liberty Seated dime collector in upstate New York. He reminded me that the Fortin web-book label designation is not a new development as he has been at it for the past year or so. He sent along the following images for several Seated dime plate coins in their customized CACG holders.


1854-O
10C
CAC XF45+
Arrows
F-106
Fortin Plate Coin
376684.45+ / 310157733 16
1885
10C
CAC MS63
F-106
Fortin Plate Coin
376685.63 / 856868731 19

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings light morning shipping that enables a 718 Boxster ride into Raymond. Afterwards, Johnny2 comes out of the barn for more progress on the newly cleared land and the removal and transport of the remaining brush pile. At some point, I will be swapping out the front grapple and going with the front loader to start moving the loam tailings into low lying spots and depressions made by rock removal.

Today will not be an office day as good progress has been made this week with the August 23 auction cataloging effort.

Thank you so much for the returning visit and staying abreast of GFRC and homestead developments.

Be well!

July 17, 2025

GFRC August 23 Auction - Descriptions 50% Completed

Additions to the 30 Day Price List

and

CACG Custom Label Documents Liberty Seated Dime Web-Book Plate Coins

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Thursday morning. Thank you so much for the visit.

It is a seasonally beautiful morning here in southern Maine with clear blue skies and temperatures in the mid-70s to start the day. A chance of thunderstorms arrives this afternoon.

Unfortunately, I've not spent much time on Johnny2 of late given the August 23 auction description writing workload and sustaining the general GFRC business. That fact will change on Friday and Saturday as enough progress has been made with auction preparations that I can afford a two day working stint in the back acreage park. Let's move forward with today's headlines topics.

GFRC August 23 Auction - Descriptions 50% Completed

I'm pleased to report that the forthcoming GFRC Online Auctions' August event is in good shape in terms of preparations. There have been long hours in the office with double row slabbed boxes containing the Massachusetts and Tenafly Collections. Writing descriptions is all about searching available information and distilling those findings into a concise paragraph. In the case of these two major collections, there are several points of investigation before preparing a lot's evaluation.

The first is the GFRC Sales Archive where prior sales history can be investigated and often yields a match as both clients were strong GFRC buyers when assembling their collections. The past descriptions concerning luster, surfaces conditions, eye appeal, and quality ratings are just as valid today as during prior sales. Ditto for rarity comments as little changes in a span of five to ten years.

Next is checking *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors* online reference for detailed die variety information and whether a lot is a plate coin in that document. Since the majority of the Massachusetts and Tenafly Collection lots are CAC approved, then the CAC population and price guide link is a constant reference point for citing census data and current fair market estimates. For Liberty Seated coinage, the CDN driven portion of the CAC price guide can be conservative as their models do not capture sales and auction activities at a smaller niche dealer like GFRC. This is why the GFRC Sales Archives are worth checking to assess the true market values based on realized prices during the past three to five years.

Information from all these source is assembled towards generating a description. It is a time consuming process if one wishing to prepare insightful numismatic prose.

Presently, the August 23 auction descriptions are fully complete through 1860 for the main Liberty Seated dimes auction segment. If the Maine weather plays out as forecasted, with afternoon thunderstorms, the description generation process with continue through the Civil War years. Once hitting the early 1870s, I will be feeling confident that the end game is in sight including creating the PDF auction catalogs.

Additions to the 30 Day Price List

Wednesday's first priority was refreshing the 30 Day Price List with several price reductions and incremental new offerings. Dr. Tim Cook reduced prices on two of his Liberty Seated dimes and those sold immediately during the afternoon hours. How about that for cause and effect?

Following is a brief showcase gallery of the new lots added to the price list yesterday with the 1834 Capped Bust half securing a JUST BUY IT NOW recommendation as quite nice. The 1844-O $10 gold is the lowest approved grade at CAC and really a bargain at the offer price. This coin is not a bullion play, though the 1907 No Mott $10 Indian and 1908 No Motto $20 Saint do fall in that category with heavy pricing influence from their bullion content. If you believe that gold spot prices will move up in the second half of 2025, then these are excellent bullion and numismatic purchases.

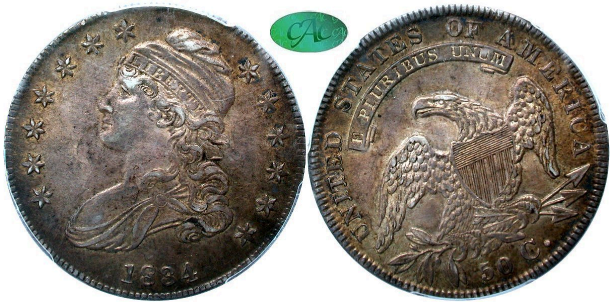
1805 B-2 PCGS VG08 CAC 25C - $935	1868-S PCGS EF40 25C - $900

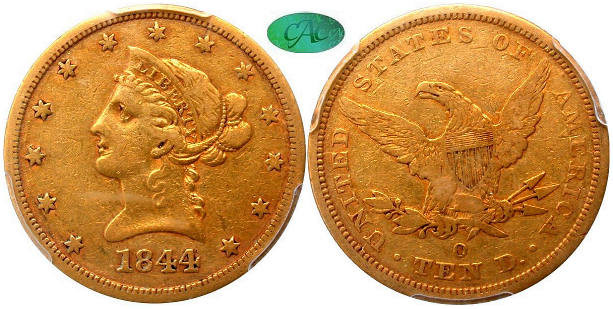
LIBERTY
1805
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
25 C.

1868
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN GOD WE TRUST
S
QUAR. DOL.

1834 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C - $950

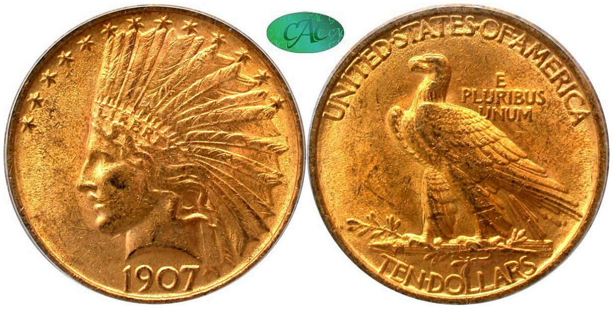
1844-O PCGS VF30 CAC G$10 - $2300

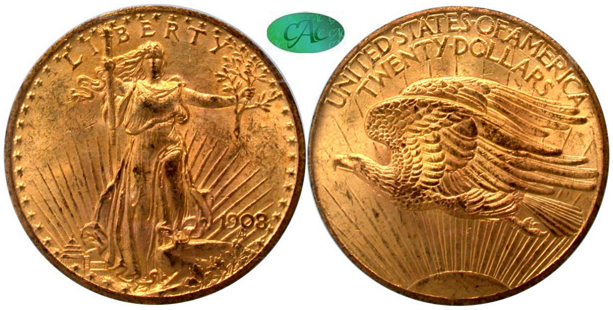

LIBERTY
1834
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
E PLURIBUS UNUM
50 C.


LIBERTY
1844
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
O
TEN D.

1907 No Motto PCGS MS61 CAC G$10 OGH - $2250

1908 No Motto PCGS MS63 CAC G$20 - $3850


1907
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
E PLURIBUS UNUM
TEN DOLLARS


LIBERTY
1908
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TWENTY DOLLARS

CACG Custom Label Documents Liberty Seated Dime Web-Book Plate Coins

The Mountaineer Collection has been on a mission to properly document and identify the Liberty Seated Dime web-book plate coins in his collection. He approached CACG for the possibility of preparing custom labels with these designations. John and I are most please to announce that CACG will now document the plate coins within *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors* online reference. Following is an image of the newly encapsulated and graded 1868 F-107a plate coin that was also upgraded to MS65 during the crossover process.

Congratulations John on this achievement!

1868
10C
CAC MS65
High Date, Broken S
F-107a
Fortin Plate Coin
393707.65 / 195621125 6
CAC

Wrapping Up The Blog

The shipping department has the day off as regular price list orders have been weak of late or that we have shipped ahead those orders that were eligible. Therefore, today's emphasis is writing a few consignment checks and returning the August 23 auction cataloging process. There is one remaining Liberty Seated dime consignment, from the Cleveland Collection, that is waiting to be loaded into the COIN database followed by a pricing proposal. This is a die variety intensive lot with the photography already completed.

I'd really like to get outdoors today, even for a few hours as the Maine summer is moving along much too quickly as the thought of spending the winter months in a small condo office/den is not appealing.

In terms of equity markets and precious metals, little is changing as we are in the mid-summer doldrums.

Let's wrap up at this point and thank our readers for their returning visit.

Be well!

July 16, 2025

GFRC August 23 Auction - Descriptions 35% Completed

Greetings on a Wednesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the visit.

Here we are sitting at the laptop at 6:30 am without much to say. Tuesday was mostly spent in the office given the hot outdoor temperatures that continue into today. The emphasis was completely descriptions for the forthcoming August 23 auction event. Progress was made as both the Massachusetts and Tenafly Collection Liberty Seated dime descriptions are completed through the 1855 date.

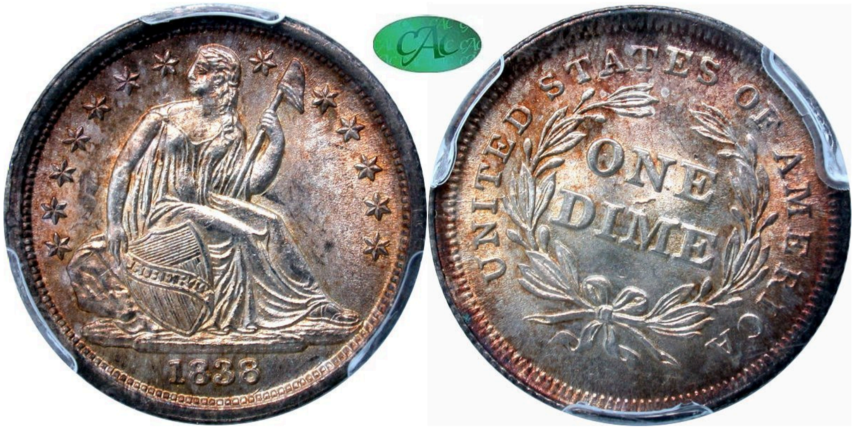
As a dealer and now an auction cataloger, the numismatic benefits are to be envied by many collectors. Imagine sitting in an office with a bright light and two double row slabbed boxes loaded with mostly CAC approved Seated dimes that have been painstakingly assembled by our long term clients. Having researched and handled 1000s of Seated dimes, the exercise is second nature in terms of recognizing die varieties, strike characteristics, and how well the surfaces are preserved. There is also the opportunity to view the variations in PCGS grading and also the difference between a CAC approved gem or average piece. Working through these dimes is consistent with evaluating a multi-dimensional puzzle as we are dealing with a host of variables that takes years of experience to properly evaluate and turn into numismatic prose.

Let's highlight a few GFRC-Gem rated Liberty Seated dime lots from both collections to fill out today's Blog content. These are amazing lots that will be cherished by successful bidders.

We open with the 1838 F-105 Reverse Flaw dime that was previously in my personal collection and is a web-book plate coin. This piece was in an old NGC holder and was crossed into a fresh PCGS holder by Tom. This dime looks way better in the new PCGS holder with incredible luster. The 1840-O Large O F-101a dime is a historic piece from the Greer Liberty Seated dime guidebook along with the Fortin web-book. This one sold years ago into the Tenafly Collection and is returning for another sales event. I hope that a very serious and experienced collector secures this piece. The Massachusetts Collection 1843-O dime is super sweet. At this point, I don't need to opin on the date's rarity when located in such a superior preservation state and with a full strike.

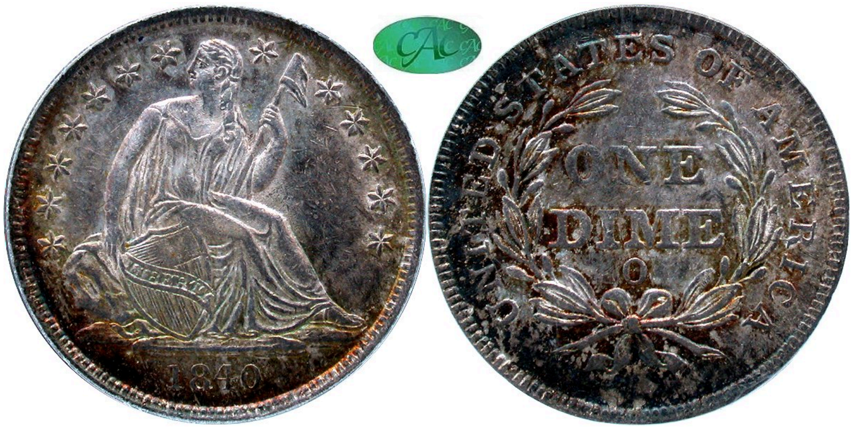
Massachusetts and Tenafly Collections - Gem Rated Lots

1838 No Drapery F-105 PCGS MS64 CAC 10C



Large Stars, Reverse Die Flaw, Gem Original, Massachusetts Collection. This1838 F-105 reverse die flaw example is an unquestionable gem with intense frosty luster decorated by rose-gold coloring. Cartwheels sizzle with the slightest holder rotation during bright light inspection. A hammered strike and pristine surfaces enhance the eye appeal. This lot sports an important legacy as the F-105 plate coin within The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors online reference. CAC has approved 125 in all grades with 28 finer. CAC pricing is $1950 in MS64 and jumping to $3150 at the full gem level. Housed in PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2025) holder with CAC approval. Ex. Gerry Fortin Reference Collection and previously sold May 2021. PCGS #4568.

1840-O No Drapery F-101a PCGS AU58 CAC 10C



Large O, Ex. Greer Plate Coin and Gerry Fortin Reference Collection, Gem Original, Tenafly Collection. An exceptional 1840-O F-101a dime with a history dating back to a Gerry Fortin purchased directly from Brian Greer during May 1995. This lot is the Large O Greer plate coin within the 1992 DLRC Press "Guidebook to Liberty Seated Dimes". Thick frosted luster radiates consistently from both sides. Gray, rose, and golden shades compliment the obverse while the reverse exhibits darker shades, especially at the periphery. The F-101a die pairing is one of two reverse dies with a Large O mintmark and being the more available of the two die pairings. For an unknown reason, the F-101 die pair was promptly lapped after initial strikes resulting in weak motifs and date punch. Please consider this fact when examining the images. A plate coin within The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors online reference. Housed in PCGS Gen 4.3 (2004) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4574.

1843-O F-101 PCGS EF45 CAC 10C

Rare Grade, GFRC-Gem Original, Massachusetts Collection. One of the many highlights of the Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection is the 1843 New Orleans piece. Astute collectors understand this date's rarity in EF through AU when fully choice as any Mint State example is extremely rare. Now is the opportunity to achieve a premier example with a GFRC-Gem rating for its incredible originality and overall presentation. Images accurately illustrate the natural coin gray surfaces with light gold and the rims. Surfaces are essentially pristine and the strike is complete, Worthy of aggressive bidding as opportunities of this kind are infrequent to the market. The CAC census reports 27 in all grades, but the key point is that there are only three finer. The CAC price guide stands at $5500 but is outdated based on other GFRC Online Auction sales results. A visit to the Sales Archives is necessary to properly research current value. Housed in PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2025) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4584.

1854 With Arrows PCGS MS64 CAC 10C

Arrows Type, Hammered Strike, Gem Original, Massachusetts Collection. A superb 1854 With Arrows dime that warrants a GFRC-Gem quality rating for its well balanced presentation. A uniform and hammered strike is immediately evident. Bright light assessment reveals frosted luster and the predominance of pastel blues and gold. Wire rims are nearly complete on both sides. Unquestionable originality rounds out the positive attributes. CAC has approved 57 in all grades which is only 25% of its prior year counterpart. Regardless, the price guide lists $1000 for both dates. A compelling lot that should garner competitive bidding. Housed in PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2025) holder with CAC approval. PCGS #4605.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a heat advisory for southern Maine and a good reason to spend another day in the GFRC preparing incremental auction descriptions. The shipping department workload is light as orders are seasonally show coupled with my nearly exclusive attention to the August 23 auction catalog. After today, I'm hoping that the catalog descriptions will be completed into the Civil War years allowing for a pivot to adding more consignments to the 30 Day Price List.

Looking at precious metals. gold remains in a consolidation pattern since May with a London quote of $3335/oz. After touching $39, silver has retreated to $37.90 as the Blog is composed. We must remember that precious metals do not move up in a straight line. There are large financial entities that subtlety manipulate prices to their advantage though unable to stop the long term upward momentum. Also working against gold is the shift of monies into Bitcoin as this instrument is presently in rally mode.

The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield continues to increase as is currently at 4.47% with the 30 Year at an even 5.0%. Yesterday's inflation report indicates that inflation continues to be sticky with little reason for the Federal Reserve to cut short term interest rates.

That is the extent of today's commentary. We are grateful for your ongoing patronage. Thanks again.

Be well!

July 15, 2025

An Interview with USPS Special Agent

GFRC Shipping PCGS Gen 6.1 Holders with Aluminum Foil Protection

and

Porsche. There is no substitute.

Greetings on at the July 2025 mid-point and welcome to the Daily Blog. As always, thank you for stopping by.

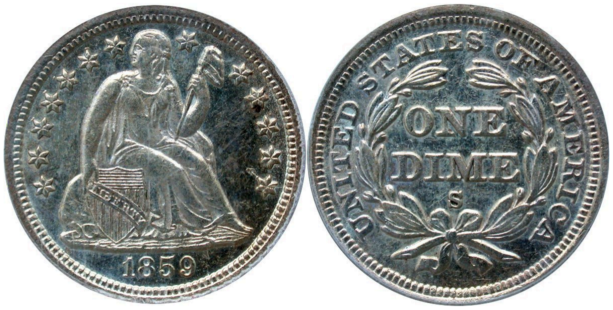
Let's get right to the heart of today's Blog as I'm committed to making substantial progress with description writing for the GFRC Online Auctions August 23 event.

An Interview with USPS Special Agent

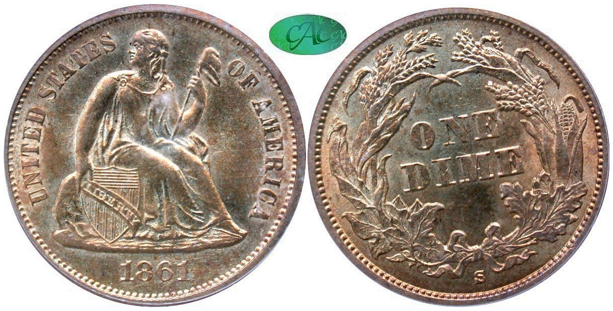
Yesterday brought a full day in the GFRC office as we attempt to move the August 23 online auction descriptions forward. I was making decent progress for both the Massachusetts and Tenafly Collection Seated dimes and then a phone call arrived from Michael Knoblock, Special Agent with the USPS Office of Inspection General. Yes, the subject was the missing package at the Scarborough, Maine distribution center containing $73,000 of value across four Liberty Seated dimes as presented next.

Last Recorded at the Scarborough, Maine Distribution Center

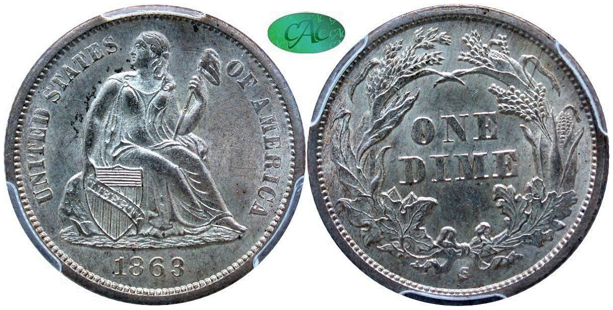
1859-S PCGS AU55 10C #3523603



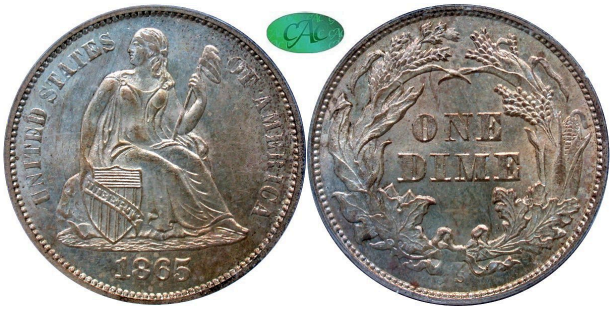
1861-S PCGS MS62 CAC 10C #60159874



1863-S PCGS MS63 CAC 10C #30032523 Bender



1865-S PCGS MS63 CAC 10C #4580332 Eliasberg



Mr. Knoblock had been assigned to the case by his boss after being contacted by Doug Davis of NCIC. I was on the phone for nearly 45 minutes answering a host a questions and starting from scratch with this special agent as he had not taken the time to conduct any prior research. The questions were wide ranging as he appeared to be completing a questionnaire on a computer screen. I received nothing in terms of new information as all this individual did was read the tracking information that Diane, myself, our client, and Doug Davis had reviewed earlier. At first, the special agent thought these were gold coins given the high value and suggested someone might have stolen them to melt down. This led to a long explanation of the historical significant of these San Francisco issued silver dime with a weight of 0.40 ounces. I could go on an on. The call concluded with GFRC sending coin images, a typical PCGS holder image, the client invoice etc. Let's see if anything comes of this as the tracking dies at the Scarborough distribution center. My gut feel is that the package is still in that building but under a sorting machine or comparable. We shipped at least ten packages that day and all exited the Scarborough distribution center except this package.

GFRC Shipping PCGS Gen 6.1 Holders with Aluminum Foil Protection

Effective yesterday, GFRC is now special coins encased in PCGS Gen 6.1 "NFC Chip" holders with an aluminum foil wrap.

Why?

Anyone with the PCGS app on their cellphone can scan a USPS package and determine the contents if holdered in the latest PCGS NFC holder. I bet that PCGS did not consider this risk when releasing an Near Field Communications (NFC) holder back in 2020.

To block the access to the NFC embedded chip in the holder, GFRC is using aluminum foil as a radio wave barrier. We are not the first dealer to take this step, but the time has come to deal with the potential risks. For example, one of the four Seated dime in our missing Scarborough distribution center package was the 1863-S Bender dime in a PCGS Gen 6.1 holder. Who knows?

Therefore, GFRC clients should not be surprised when starting to received shipments with aluminum foil wraps.

Porsche. There is no substitute.

I can't begin to explain how much I'm loving the 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 purchase. Each time in the car is an absolute thrill beyond words. Porsche sent along an email this morning that accurately captures my feelings and probably that of most other Porsche owners.

It's the thrill that drives us.

There is no substitute for a spark that ignites the soul. For inspiration that stirs the emotions of both dreamers and drivers. This isn't just a feeling, it's a calling. And it's always been the heart and soul of Porsche.

It's been a rallying cry for hundreds of thousands, all bound together in the pursuit of something extraordinary and inspiring. A promise of goosebumps every time you slide behind the wheel. **Of each drive becoming a cherished moment in time.**

It's precision that is poetry and design that elicits adoration. There is no substitute for the realization of a dream that we gather to admire, celebrate and cheer.

There's nothing else like it and there never will be. More than a statement, it's a shared spirit. And right now, it's truer than ever.

Wrapping Up The Blog

OK, this is the extend of today's ramblings as I'm immediately moving to August 23 description writing. I'd like to make considerable progress in the near term to allow me to spend time at the back acreage next week finalizing the new stone wall and clearing the area behind it for lawn planting. I'm not a big fan of procrastination, rather being ahead of the curve and then taking a multi-day holiday from the GFRC office to enjoy time outdoors.

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

July 14, 2025

A Quiet Homestead

Silver Trading Over $39/oz

and

Is Jerome Powell Resigning as Fed Chair?

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog as we start a new week. Thank you so much for the return visit.

As the lead headline indicates, the Maine homestead is uncharacteristically quiet this morning as the Yamatin family is back in the Coolidge Corner, Boston home. There is little else to say other than our guests will be back in three weeks for another extended visit.

Sunday brought August 23 auction description generation and incremental consignment photography. The August GFRC Online Auction event is now complete with respect to posted reserves. From a description writing perspective, those lot with a PCGS number at the end of a description are now finalized and ready for bidding come the evening of August 23. My plan is to write incremental descriptions on a daily basis and have that task wrapped up by early August.

Silver Trading Over $39/oz

The precious metal sector continues to be drawing investor attention. As the Blog is being composed, silver is trading a tad over $39/oz while spot gold is trending at $3372 in London. Platinum and palladium metals are also climbing with platinum at nearly $1400/oz. A further look into the commodities sector has WTI crude oil approaching the $70/bbl mark.

Is Jerome Powell Resigning as Fed Chair?

Also while working in the GFRC office and preparing today's Blog edition, a news flash appeared on Google stating that Jerome Powell has resigned as the Federal Reserve chair. The news outlet is Mitrade.com which is unknown to me prior to the morning. The announcement reads as follows:

Jerome Powell has agreed to step down as chair of the Federal Reserve following relentless attacks from President Trump and his inner circle, according to a statement released by Billy Pulte, the current head of the U.S. Federal Housing Finance Agency.

However, another Mitrade.com post indicates a walking back of the prior announcement with only a comment that Jerome Powell is "considering" resigning.

A check of other news outlets does not confirm the resignation as of 7:00 AM ET.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is little else to share at this point. I will be in the GFRC office for the entire day starting with morning shipping followed by auction description writing during the afternoon hours.

Thank you again for the visit. Be well!

July 13, 2025

A Few Seth Godin Blogpost Gems...

Gerry Fortin's Remaining Opportunities for the Advanced Collector

and

Where are Precious Metal Starting a New Week?

Greetings on a Sunday morning as we approach the July mid-point. Welcome to another Daily Blog edition and thank you for the visit.

Another southern Maine is upon us with the usual morning fog and afternoon showers. Believe me, I am not complaining as water is nature's lifeline and sustains the green shaded landscape.

Sadly, the Yamatin family heads back to Boston this afternoon. It has been a joy to share the homestead with Matt, Chikae, Natsumi, and Ayumi. On Friday evening, Matt and the two grandchildren did an overnight camping event in the gazebo which was cool. Matt reports that the home wireless coverage easily extended to the gazebo as they were able to stream a movie on a tablet. It has been confirmed, at last evening's dinner, that the Yamatins will be back in August for another several week stay prior to our departure for the Oklahoma City ANA show.

In the numismatic world, the August 23 GFRC Online Auctions continues to see slow progress with nearly all lots having confirm reserves. I'm waiting on approval for the final four lots to place a check mark for this task. Afterwards, the next major task is writing descriptions followed by creating separate PDF catalogs for the Massachusetts and Tenafly Collections.

Not having much for prepared content for today's edition, a visit to Seth Godin's website produced several gem blogpost that should bring about contemplation.

A Few Seth Godin Blogpost Gems...

The future does not care

It doesn’t care whether you’re excited or filled with trepidation.

It arrives, regardless.

What an opportunity. Or a threat.

Up to us.

Not smart vs. stupid

Not smart is a passive act, remedied with learning, experience and thought.

Stupid is active, the work of someone who should have or could have known better and decided to do something selfish, impulsive or dangerous anyway.

The more experience, assets and privilege we have, the less excusable it is to do stupid things. And at the same time, the more useful it is to announce that we’re not smart (yet).

Gerry Fortin's Remaining Opportunities for the Advanced Collector

Several months have already gone by since the final May 2025 auction session for The Connoisseur's Auction Sale that featured the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated Collections. Both myself and Aaron Heintz wish to see our remaining unsold lots moving to new homes during the balance of this year. Of course, the next major selling opportunity will be the ANA's World's Fair of Money Show in Oklahoma City come the week of August 18th.

In today's Blog, we are presenting a showcase gallery of the remaining Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated dimes with a similar presentation for the Newtown Liberty Seated halves in the coming days. These presentations will be amalgamated into separate links and added to the Daily Blog through the balance of the year or until all these lots are sold. Both Gerry and Aaron are soliciting offers for these lots as they do need to locate loving new homes in advanced collections.

Let's focus on the Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated dime opportunities in today's Blog. Following are facts about each of these lots.

1837 Small Date F-103 PCGS MS66+ CAC - This is the finest 1837 Small Date dime certified at PCGS, with the important Simpson and O'Neal pedigrees, and is the PCGS Price Guide plate coin. The last auction record dates back to April 2014 when sold by Heritage as part of the Jim O'Neal Collection of U.S. Type. This piece was subsequently owned by the Newtown Collection and purchased for my personal set. The offer price is consistent with prior sales. This is a phenomenal type coin for the collection that demands the best.

1837 Small Date F-104 PCGS MS65 CAC - This is the duplicate 1837 Small Date dime that was displaced by the PCGS MS66+. I could not bring myself to sell this piece after the upgrade as was still in love with its warm frosted luster and overall eye appeal. The auction reserve was set at the PCGS Price Guide value and a tad above the CAC Price Guide number. So far, there have been no takers so I'm opening up the playing field to potential offers.

1849-O F-101b PCGS MS64 CAC - I'm still surprised that this Large O dime did not sell at its auction and remains on the price list. It is tied for CAC finest with a single piece finer that has not been to auction. The Tom Bender MS64 CAC, a Small O F-104b with lapped dies sold for $14,400 during August 2024, therefore my reserve price must be too high. However, if you have this piece in hand and under a bright light, the frosted presentation is amazing along with being a very challenging date in near-gem Mint State. Offers are welcomed.

1863 F-101a PCGS MS67 CAC - This is the finest known 1863 dime, plain and simple, along with being the PCGS Price Guide plate coin. This piece has never been to auction prior to the GFRC sale as it was purchased via a private transaction. It is a lot of money for a finest known Civil War Philadelphia issue until placing the dime under a bright light. Then one realizes why this piece secured an MS67 certification and CAC approval. Again, offers are welcomed.

1867 F-102 PCGS MS67 CAC - This is the same situation as the 1863 dime and tied for finest known at PCGS and CAC. My images are unable to accurately illustrate this piece's overall beauty. Since being the PCGS Price Guide plate coin, one can secure an alternate image set for assessing its presentation.

1872-CC F-101 PCGS EF45 CAC- Locating any CAC approved Carson City dimes from the 1871-CC through 1874-CC period is an ongoing challenge for collectors. I was thrilled to be able to finally secure this 1872-CC piece when purchased. There are three approved at the EF45 grade level with a single AU58 finer. The challenge with these types of coins is determining their fair value as so few ever trade. The CAC Price Guide lists $17,500 jumping to $80,000 for the lone AU58. Between you, me, and wall, I paid more for this coin than the auction reserve. The person who sold it to me knew that I needed this dime to finish my CAC "Big Four" Carson City run and brought forth a strong asking pricet. Again, offers are welcomed.

1885-S F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC - Finally, we arrive at an incredibly rare and amazing 1885-S dime. I don't need to discuss the rarity of this date in both circulated and Mint State grades. This piece is the second finest and the PCGS Price Guide plate coin. What is its fair market value? Back in August 2022, the Richard Chouinard Collection was sold by Heritage with an MS63 CAC example bringing a record $48,000. There are supposedly three MS65s per the PCGS population report with one trading back in 2005 for $32,200. The lone MS65 is the Eliasberg-Stellar specimen which sold twice during 2014 for $50,000, then $45,500. You can be the judge if my $36,000 auction reserve is fair. As communicated in the Blog a while back, a dealer offered $30,000 for the coin at the 2025 Summer Baltimore show which means he was looking to sell it at the $34,000 to $35,000 level, maybe more. I passed on the offer as too low and would rather hold on to this dime until the right buyer comes along.

The Connoisseur's Auction Sale

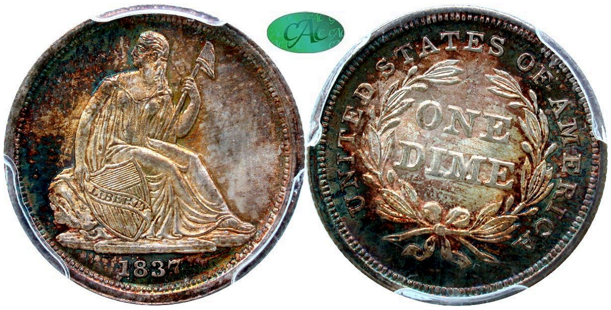
The Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection

GFRC ONLINE AUCTIONS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LIBERTY
1863
GFRC Proudly Presents
The Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection
Remaining Opportunities
Offers Welcomed

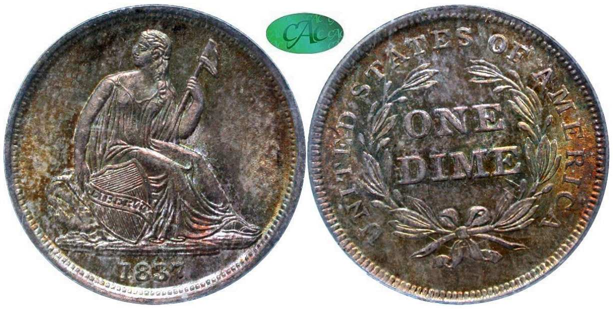
Remaining Opportunities for the Advanced Collector

Offers Welcomed

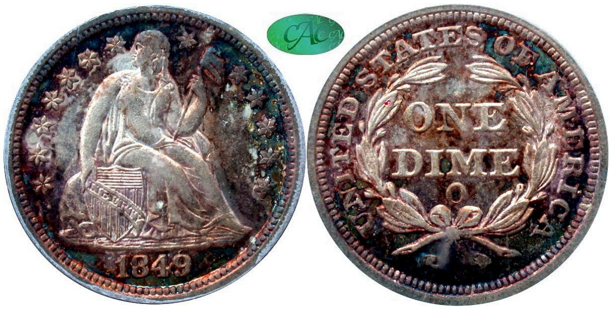
1837 Small Date F-103 PCGS MS66+ CAC 10C - $30,000



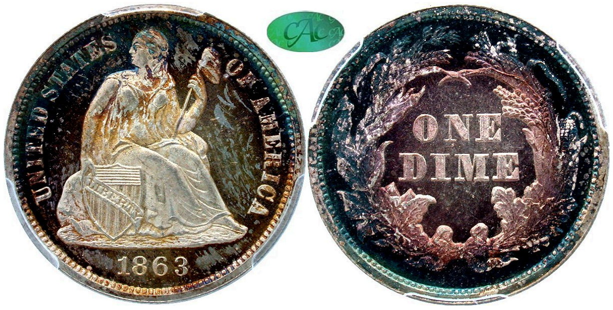
1837 Small Date F-104 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $12,500



1849-O F-101b PCGS MS64 CAC 10C - $19,000



1863 F-101a PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $21,500

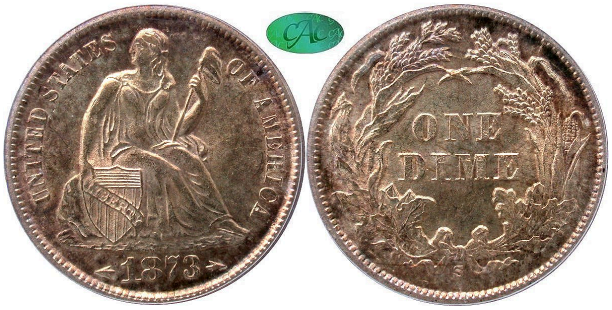


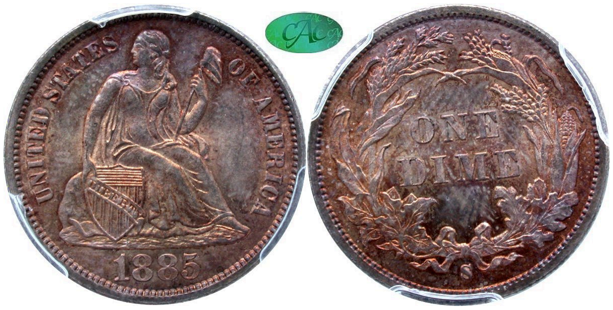
1867 F-102 PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $17,500

1872-CC F-101 PCGS EF45 CAC 10C - $22,500

1873-S F-101 PCGS MS64 CAC 10C - $4850

1885-S F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $36,000





Where are Precious Metal Starting a New Week?

The precious metal sector, including gold, silver, platinum, and palladium, saw increasing prices last week with silver breaking through $38/oz. More and more analysts are now calling for gold to reach the $4000 level by year end as the yellow metal has been in a consolidation period for the past three month after spiking to $3500 during late April. Once gold takes out the $3500 level, it could easily run much higher as silver has just demonstrated. I'm certain that those entities that are now importing large amounts of gold into the United States are motivated to keep gold's price at current levels until the acquisition phase is completed.

Come this evening, precious metals will begin to trade in Asia and I will be watching both gold and silver numbers.

Wrapping Up The Blog

I hope that you've enjoyed this edition and let's close at this point.

There are many new posting to the 30 Day Price List that need new homes. Hopefully, a few Daily Blog readers will be in a shopping mood today and will place orders.

Thanks again for checking in.

Be well!

July 12, 2025

Final Yamatin Family Day at the Homestead

and

Silver Rips Through $38/oz

Greetings on a foggy Saturday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for checking back for new content.

Today's edition will be brief as everyone needs some downtime from their ongoing duties. The Red Sox have won nine straight and are now garnering my early morning attention via YouTube game highlight videos. Then there were several interview videos of interest from the Rick Rule Symposium that also captured my attention. One in particular covered the economic impact of Trump's trade tariffs which I found to be enlightening. Bottom line, I'm just not in a mood for attempting to create content.

Friday was a busy day with Matt taking control of Johnny2 and moving a substantial number of rocks to the new stone wall. Dave Wilkinson made an afternoon appearance with a 16 yard load of loam tailing to continue preparations for planting an incremental lawn behind the newest stone wall. Dave and I took a tour of the Ledge Hill Park, which he helped enabled, and stopped at the pond to discuss how we would approach an expansion. He made it clear that I need to add an aerator pump to keep the water moving towards solving the algae issue.

Silver demonstrated a substantial breakout on Friday and easily broke through the $38/oz mark, closing at $38.32. When an equity or stock gaps up, one of the reasons could be short covering. Those that were betting against a stock must buyback that stock to close out their short positions but losing too much money on the bet. Could this be one of the reasons why silver gapped nearly $1.50 yesterday? Monday morning trading in Asia will be telling.

Today brings the final day of the Yamatin family visit to the homestead. Last evening, Matt took Natsumi and Ayumi for an overnight camping event in the gazebo. I'm still waiting for them to return to the house and hear how their adventure went. Afterwards, it will be a family day with the GFRC business being of low priority.

Thank you for the visit and always remember to be positive and well.

July 11, 2025

Slow Progress with New Stone Wall Area

Silver Breaks Through $37 Mark

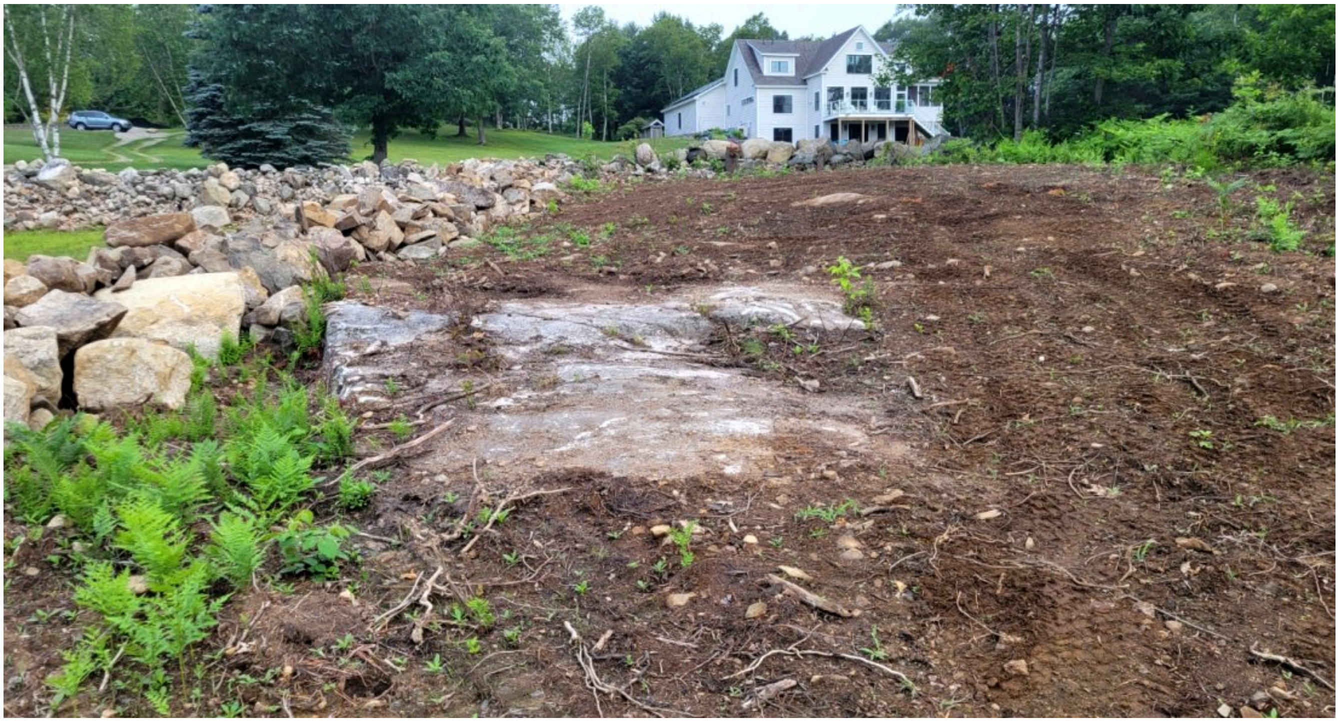
and

Grilling with Ayumi

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog. It is a Friday morning at the Maine homestead with a seasonably comfortable weather forecast for the day. Thank you so much for the visit.

GFRC sales have been quiet this week as I'm attempting to restock the 30 Day Price List with newly consigned items. This effort will continue today as we received a quick pricing approval for yesterday's latest consignment preview. Two of the nine lots secured First Rights of Refusal requests with price quotes going out once this Blog edition is uploaded.

Slow progress continues with respect to the back acreage's new stone wall and adjacent area. The cleared ground is replete with rocks, more than one could imagine. How the early settlers were able to clear and farm a portion of this property is intriguing. The rock and boulder density is just incredible as digging down more than a few inches of dirt leads to the discovery of yet more rocks. Here are two images that substantiate the challenges in turning this cleared area into a mow-able lawn. The first is ledge protruding out of the ground which is consistent with this geographical location being named Ledge Hill. The second is a boulder that Matt and I started digging earlier in the week with Johnny2. I spent an hour on Thursday afternoon maneuvering this boulder out of its hole and pushing it aside with the tractor. Note the other buried boulder that is to the immediate right of the freshly dug piece of granite. We will be leaving that monster boulder in its resting place as just not worth the time and effort to extract.



Silver Breaks Through $37 Mark

While this Blog edition is being composed silver has pushed through the $37 mark in a substantial manner with a London quote of $37.50/oz. Gold is also doing its thing with a quote of $3348. We discussed the precious metal situation extensively on Thursday and there is no need to take that discussion further today.

Grilling with Ayumi

Yesterday's highlight, beyond moving a boulder out of a hole, was grilling a family dinner with help from Ayumi. I discovered that Ayumi loves contemporary music being played via the Tidal app on my cellphone. She was dancing and enjoying herself on the back deck rocking chairs. At one point, I thought that an Ayumi image would be ideal for today's Blog and snapped a host of pictures hoping to secure a smile. Following is the best of the attempts with those wonderful eyes staring at me. Ayumi will be two and half come September. Diane and I love having her at the homestead.

Wrapping Up The Blog

I understand that there was no numismatic content in today's edition. Some days bring new GFRC arrivals or the opportunity for a showcase gallery. This morning's ramblings were about other aspects of a regular guy's life and I hope that the content was enjoyable.

I will be working in the office this morning and shifting attention to the new back acreage stone wall come this afternoon. Actually, Matt is looking forward to mastering the John Deere 2038R (Johnny2) tractor and moving a bunch of rocks around with the grapple attachment. Adding a noteworthy stone wall to the property takes time and commitment. Once in place, it will be there for multiple new owners to enjoy into the 22nd century. Yes, the stone walls will be around for a very long time as a testament to the efforts for building a special landscape.

Thanks again for the visit. Be well!

July 10, 2025

Staying on Top of Two Substantial Meetings

and

CAC Approved Consignment Arrives!

Greetings on a mid-July Thursday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Another day means another Daily Blog edition. We appreciate the ongoing patronage.

I've been following two major meeting that are taking place this week. The first is the BRICS summit in Brazil and the second is the Rick Rule Symposium in Boca Raton Florida. Then there are the Red Sox that have been on quite the run since trading away Devers, but that is another conversation. Why am I bring up these two meetings? The long and the short is that both meetings will have an impact on precious metals. The BRICS summit is being under reported by the western media though the BRICS are moving forward with their mBridge system (think SWIFT alternative) along with China taking steps to settle the Yuan in gold. If you don't believe me, then this response from AI CoPilot, when asked if "Has China announced that the Yuan will be settled in gold?", might be enlightening.

Not officially — but China is certainly making moves that suggest a strategic alignment between the **yuan and gold**.

On December 20, 2023, China recorded its **first-ever cross-border settlement for gold using the digital yuan (e-CNY)**. The Bank of China's Shanghai branch facilitated a $14 million transaction via the Shanghai Financial Exchange International Board. While this doesn't mean the yuan is formally backed by gold, it signals a growing willingness to use gold as a settlement medium in international trade.

Beyond that:

- China has been **aggressively accumulating gold reserves**, with estimates suggesting it may hold far more than officially reported.
- The **Shanghai Gold Exchange** recently launched contracts allowing **physical gold delivery in Hong Kong**, making yuan-denominated gold trading more accessible to foreign investors.
- China is also promoting **yuan-based gold trading platforms** to reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar and SWIFT system.

So while there's no formal announcement of a gold-backed yuan, the infrastructure and policy direction suggest China is **quietly positioning gold as a pillar of its monetary strategy** — potentially paving the way for broader adoption of the yuan in global trade.

Of course, the issue of how China's gold and Yuan strategy could impact the U.S. dollar as the globe's reserve currency is key, in other words, the U.S. dollar's dominance. AI CoPilot offered this response.

Impact on USD Dominance

China's pivot toward gold and the yuan is a **quiet challenge to the dollar's supremacy**:

- **Reserve Diversification**: Central banks are increasingly shifting away from the dollar. In 2025, the dollar fell to **7th place** in reserve preference among surveyed banks.
- **Yuan's Rise**: Over the next decade, central banks expect the yuan's share of global reserves to **triple to 6%**, with many favoring it over the dollar.
- **Gold as a Hedge**: China's gold accumulation acts as a buffer against dollar volatility and sanctions. It's a strategic hedge, not just a monetary asset.
- **Digital Yuan Infrastructure**: China's e-CNY, potentially linkable to gold, offers a **non-dollar settlement system** that appeals to countries wary of U.S. financial influence.

Impact on Central Bank Reserve Strategies

The ripple effect is already visible in how central banks manage their portfolios:

- **Record Gold Buying**: In Q1 2025 alone, central banks bought **244 metric tons of gold**, well above the five-year average.
- **Long-Term Shift**: A net **40% of central banks** plan to increase gold holdings over the next decade.
- **De-Dollarization Momentum**: BRICS and ASEAN economies are formalizing **local-currency trade settlements**, reducing dollar invoicing by up to 15% within five years.
- **Trust in Tangible Assets**: Gold's appeal lies in its **universal value and immunity to manipulation**, especially as fiat regimes face inflation and debt concerns.

Strategic Implications

- **Symbolism & Sovereignty**: Gold-backed or gold-supported currencies signal **monetary independence**, especially for nations under Western sanctions.
- **Multipolar Future**: We may be heading toward a **multi-bloc currency system** — with the dollar, yuan/gold, and crypto each serving different geopolitical spheres.

The second meeting that I am monitoring is the Rick Rule Symposium for the precious metals and mining sector. Gold and silver are trading at or near record levels with keynote and guest speakers attempting to assess where the precious metals are heading given the BRICS strategic steps and Trump's ongoing tariffs agenda. Before composing today's edition, I took in a YouTube video with Andy Schectman, at the conference, who has been one of the visionaries concerning the global financial system reset away from the U.S. dollar and towards a

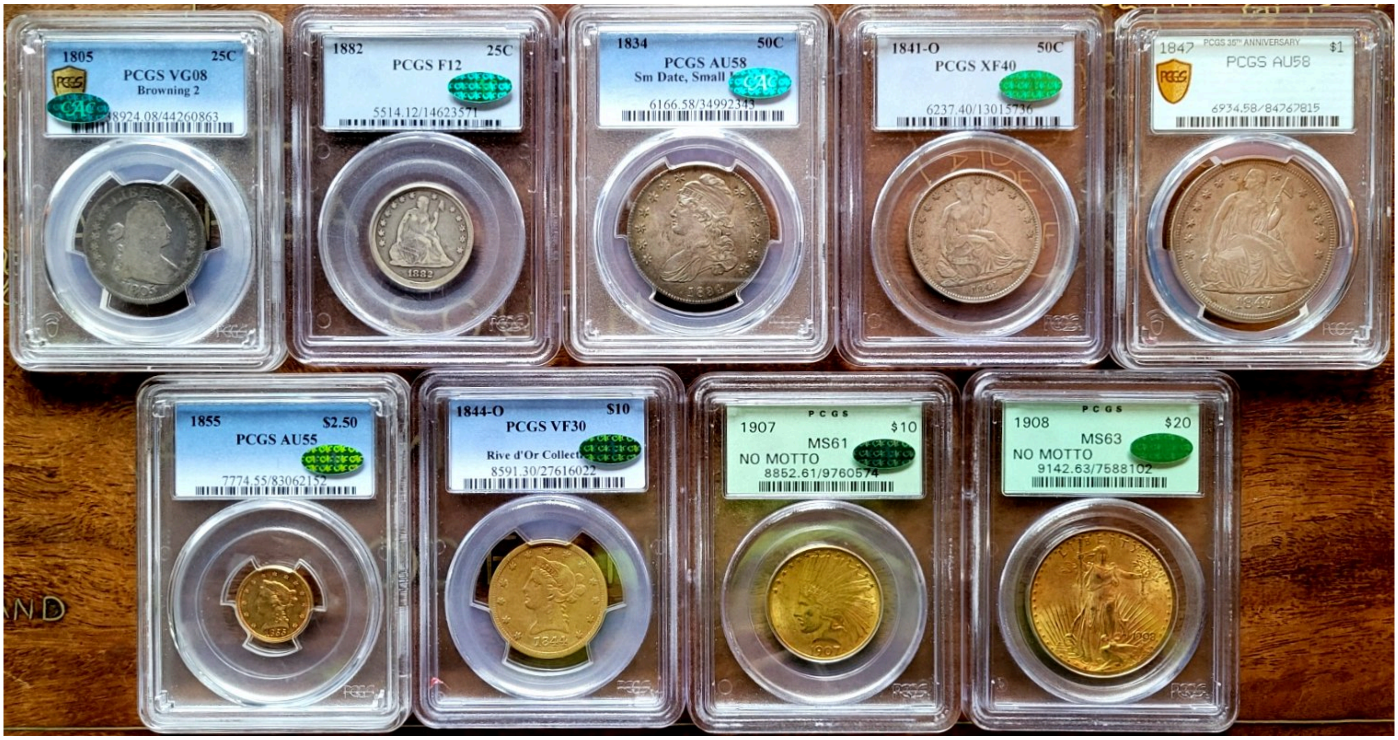
multipolar trading system. If having 20 minutes of spare time, you might want to watch this video from beginning to end. Andy Schectman is a hard working regular guy and has been way out in front of the events we see unfolding in real time today. Just recently, he has been monitoring and reporting on the draining of physical gold out of the LBMA and the COMEX by major market players on behalf of central banks or sovereign wealth funds.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGD5PlU-y-A

Let's shift the focus to numismatics.

CAC Approved Consignment Arrives!

Wednesday brought the arrival of a premium consignment that should garner considerable attention. Following is a preview image of the consignment contents. At this point, this is the final arrival since closing the GFRC consignment window through the end of July. First Right of Refusal requests will be honored for this lot.


1805 25C PCGS VG08 Browning 2 8924.08/44260863
1882 25C PCGS F12 5514.12/14623571
1834 50C PCGS AU58 Sm Date, Small 6166.58/34992343
1841-O 50C PCGS XF40 6237.40/13015736
1847 $1 PCGS AU58 6934.58/84767815
1855 $2.50 PCGS AU55 7774.55/83062152
1844-O $10 PCGS VF30 Rive d'Or Collect 8591.30/27616022
1907 $10 MS61 NO MOTTO 8852.61/9760574
1908 $20 MS63 NO MOTTO 9142.63/7588102

Wrapping Up The Blog

I will be in the GFRC office for most of the day loading the balance of the LaSalle Liberty Seated quarters to the price list and beginning to write August 23 auction descriptions. With the inclusion of the six LaSalle quarters to the auction event, the lot total has expanded to 249 lots with 78% being CAC approved. If a Liberty Seated coinage fan and desiring premium examples for a collection, this is your auction event!

The homestead continues to be full of life as Matt, Chikae, Natsumi, and Ayumi are staying with us through Sunday. Ayumi has a way of making her presence felt, but is a good way! Come Friday, Matt will be helping me finalize the newest stone wall that is under construction. Dave Wikinson laid the wall's skeleton with increments efforts necessary to add its outer "skin". Father and son will be transporting a fair amount of incremental rock with Johnny2 on Friday. I am looking forward to this activity.

As always, your visits are welcomed and appreciated. Yes, the Daily Blog content can vary based on my early morning energy levels and creativity. I believe today's edition was quite solid.

Be well!

July 9, 2025

LaSalle Collection - Liberty Seated Quarters to Consider

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Wednesday morning. Thank you so much for the returning visit.

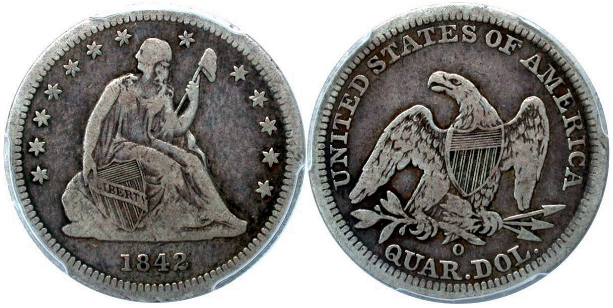
Today's edition will be brief and will focus exclusively on the LaSalle Collection and his new Liberty Seated quarter consignment. We worked throughout Tuesday afternoon and evening to complete image processing and settling down the offer prices. There were focused discussed on several coins. I was up very early this morning, specifically 4:15 AM, as the images still needed to be uploaded to the Hostway server before the following showcase gallery could be assembled.

Not featured today and posting to the August 23 auction event are the following Seated quarters; 1849-O PCGS VF35, 1850 PCGS VF35 CAC, 1850-O PCGS VF35 CAC, 1852-O PCGS VF20 CAC, 1853-O A&R PCGS EF40 CAC, and a major rarity, the 1873 No Arrows, Closed 3 PCGS VF25 CAC. These lots are now posted to the online Auction catalog with their reserves.

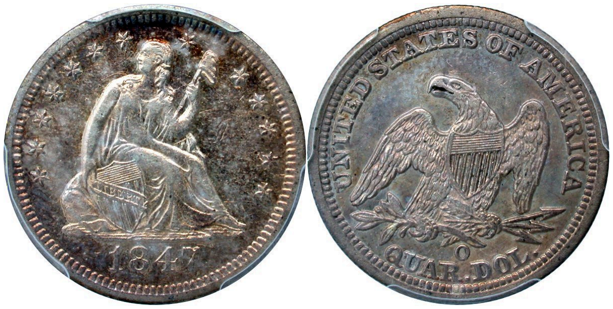
The below offerings are immediately available for a first shot request and will be loaded to the 30 Day Price List later today and into Thursday. Simply click on any of the images to gain access to the usual GFRC higher resolution versions. Many of these lots were previously purchased from GFRC with the sales records available in the Sales Archive.

LaSalle Collection - Liberty Seated Quarter Showcase Gallery

1842-O Sm Date Br 1-A PCGS F15 25C - $2300


LIBERTY
1842
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
O
QUAR. DOL.

1847-O Br 2-C PCGS AU50 25C - $2100


LIBERTY
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
O
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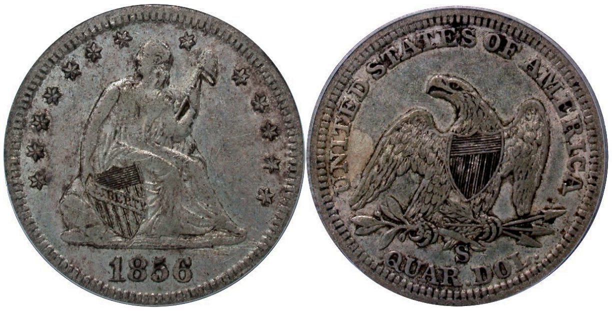
1856-S PCGS EF45 25C - $3150


1856
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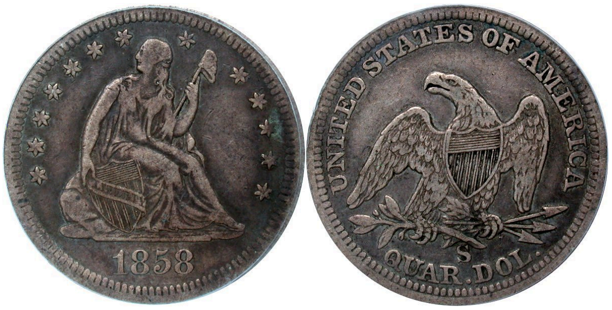
1858-S PCGS VF30 25C - $2500


1858
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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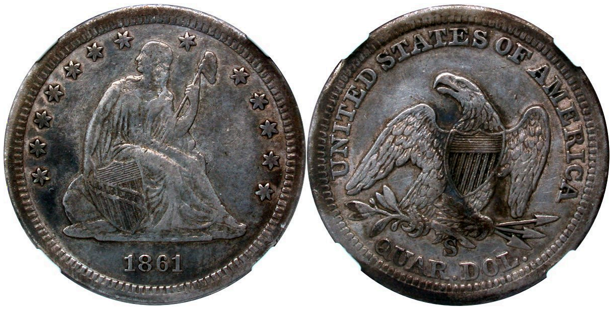
1861-S NGC VF35 25C - $3500


1861
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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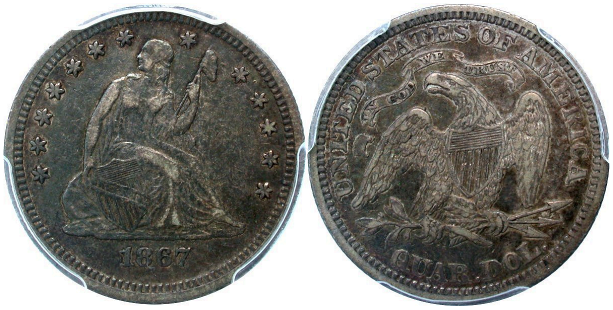
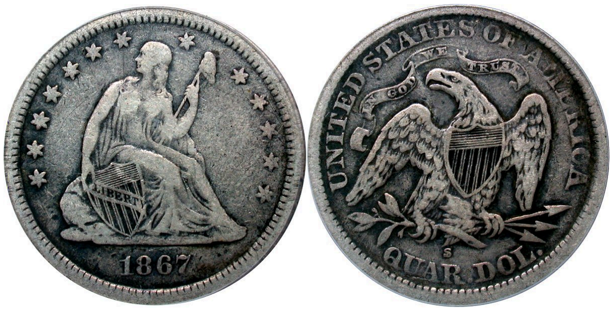
QUAR. DOL.

1867 PCGS EF49 25C - $1950


1867
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN GOD WE TRUST
QUAR. DOL.

1867-S PCGS VF20 25C - $1600


LIBERTY
1867
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN GOD WE TRUST
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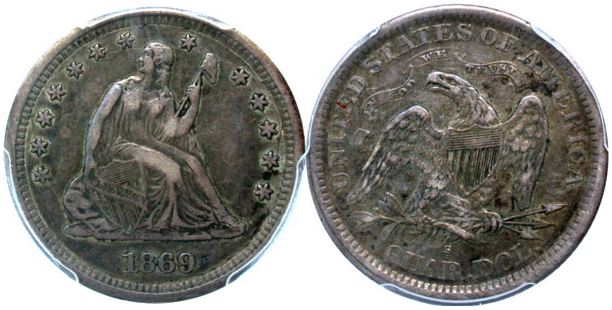
QUAR. DOL.

1869-S PCGS VF30 25C - $1000


1869
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WE TRUST
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QUAR. DOL.

1839 Br 2-B PCGS VF35 25C - $500

1840-O Br 2-B PCGS VF35 25C - $525

1841 Br 2-A PCGS VF35 25C - $375

1843-O Br 1-D PCGS VF35 25C - $695

1848 Br 2-B PCGS VF30 25C - $300

1852 Br 2-B NGC EF40 25C - $775

1854-O PCGS AU55 25C - $700

1860-O Br 1-A NGC EF45 25C - $350

1862-S Br 2-A NGC VF35 25C - $1000

1864 PCGS F15 25C - $400

1865 PCGS EF40 25C - $550

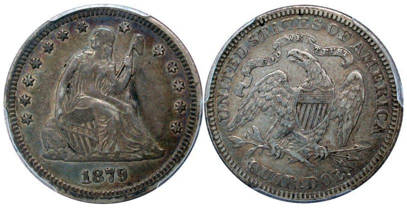
1868-S PCGS EF40 25C - $900

1870 PCGS EF40 25C - $550

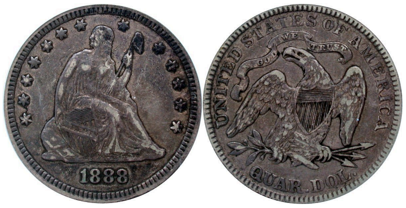
1873 PCGS AU53 CAC 25C - $650

1879 PCGS AU58 25C - $700

1879 PCGS EF45 25C - $550



1888 PCGS EF45 25C - $825



Wrapping Up The Blog

Let's close this Blog edition here as another busy day awaits me. I will be monitoring emails throughout the day for potential LaSalle Collection orders.

Thanks again for checking in and please make sure to be well!

July 8, 2025

Saying Goodbye to Renee, Mike, Ivy, and Miles

A Substantial Shipping Day

and

Waiting for LaSalle Liberty Seated Quarter Pricing Approval

Greetings on a Tuesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for staying current with the Fortin family adventures and the GFRC business.

As the opening headline indicates, the Maine July 4th vacation period must always come to an end with Renee and her family departing for Austin today. It was a non-stop busy visit for Diane as lead hostess and thoroughly enjoying the grandchildren. Last evening was particular special as for once, only the adults gathered around the dining room table to enjoy chatting and jokes. Early teenager Natsumi was in charge of the other grandchildren in the TV room and did a great jog keeping them there. Wine and specialty liquors were enjoyed along with a decision that the next family reunion will be Christmas at the Maine homestead. Yes, the Fortins will return to Maine, from Venice Florida, to host an old fashion Maine winter Christmas to wrap up 2025. Afterwards, we will be back in Florida for the 2026 Winter FUN show.

As the sun began to set, Chikae took the following picture of Matt and Renee on the back deck with the coastal horizon color transition in the background. We could not be more proud of our two adult children with their successful professional careers and wonderful families. For those new to the Daily Blog, Chikae and Renee were roommates at Wesleyan in Middletown, CT. Chikae confided to Renee that she was struggling to find a good American man for a relationship. Her wish was realized when Renee brought her older brother Matt into the picture. During the Maine visit, Matt and Chikae Yamatin celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary with many more to come. Additionally, Matt is the architect and software creator of the GFRC numismatic platform that we enjoy using on a daily basis.

A Substantial Shipping Day

Traditional summer Maine thunderstorms are expected by noon time, so the immediate priority after completing today's Blog will be shipping customer orders. Diane will be busy with Reene's family breakfst and sent off while I will be writing invoices and packing shipment. Monday's mail brought 11 check payments and a final online PayPal F&F payment for one of the Newtown Liberty Seated halves from the first January Connoisseur's auction event. These arrivals translate into a host of orders heading to clients.

Waiting for LaSalle Liberty Seated Quarter Pricing Approval

Much progress was at hand on Monday with the new LaSalle Liberty Seated quarter consignment as there are many better dates that will bring additional flavor to the August 23 auction along with a much needed injection into the 30 Day Price List. All 31 quarters were photographed along with being loaded into the COIN system. A pricing proposal was submitted to our consignor with 6 of the 31 lots heading to the August auction and the balance for the price list. Remaining is hearing back from the LaSalle Collection with a pricing approval or modifications. Once that milestone is achieved, the 6 lots will be added to the online auction catalog, thus closing that build. Next will be posting the balance of the Seated quarters to the price list.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Let's close today's edition at this point as a quick shower is in order followed by hugs and saying goodbye to Renee, Mike, Ivy, and Miles before their drive to Boston's Logan airport.

As always, thank you for the visit and feedback. The Daily Blog is much more than just a numismatic publication, rather the documentation of one family's adventures as we move annually around the sun.

Be well!

July 7, 2025

Touring Ledge Hill Park - The *Take a Hike* Club

and

Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection - All Auction Lots Posted

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Monday morning. Thank you so much for the ongoing visits.

Another warm summer day has begun in southern Maine with the Fortin family still sound asleep as this Blog edition is being composed. One of the these days, I will be doing the unthinkable of sleeping in too. At 7:00 AM, the outdoor thermometer is reading nearly 100F in direct

sunlight which is certainly an overstatement for this time of day. The heat pumps have been operating constantly this weekend with the solar panels providing nearly all the required energy.

Sunday brought a combination of family fun and time in the GFRC office during the warmest parts of the day as will be share next. Let's get to the details without a long preamble.

Touring Ledge Hill Park - The *Take a Hike* Club

What a pleasant surprise by Diane when I learned that she had organized a family walking tour of the back acreage trails. To mark the occasion, special "Take a Hike" T-shirts were ordered for the grandchildren. Let's open today's visual presentation with a photograph of Meme with granddaughters Natsumi and Ivy modeling their new "Take a Hike" apparel. These three hikers were leading the group as the balance were lagging a bit due to guiding toddlers Ayumi and Miles along the steep Hill trail towards the pond. Every hiker needs a walking stick, right?

TAKE
A
HIKE
TAKE
A
HIKE

The pond turned out to the hiking highlight as the grandchildren were excited about poking their walking sticks into the water. This image captures that special moment at the pond entrance steps as the "Take a Hike" club is enjoying the water view in the deepest part of the forest. We can help be note everyone's fashionable hiking hats for keeping the bugs away.

This final image was taken by Chikae Yamatin as she was so excited to have captured a Fortin family picture that includes the two grandparents (Gerry & Diane), their children (Matt & Renee), and the four grandchildren (Natsumi, Ivy, Ayuni, and Miles). Again, placing those walking sticks into the water was the cool thing to do for the grandchildren.

Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection - All Auction Lots Posted

Once back from our hiking adventure, the temperature quickly rose to 90F with everyone finding air conditioned shelter in the homestead. There was a 718 Boxster trip to Raymond's Fisherman Catch seafood market to secure 2 lbs of scallops for dinner which was a reminder why one should not venture into town during the 4th of July holiday weekend. The roadways were crowded with tourists and locals attempting to negotiate through the RT 302 traffic.

I'm pleased to report that the afternoon hours brought the posting of the final Massachusetts Collection Liberty Seated Dime lots into the August 23 auction catalog. With bright sunshine, the last of these Seated dimes were photographed along with all of the LaSalle Liberty Seated quarters as showcased yesterday.

Let's review several August 23 auction statistics for fun:

- The total number of lots has climbed to 243 with a few additions placed from the new LaSalle Liberty Seated quarter consignment.

- The CAC approved rate is huge with 77% of the lots having a green bean along with a single Gold CAC 1859-O Seated quarter.

- This auction is also replete with Liberty Seated dimes formerly from my reference collection, many of which are plate coins within The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Die Variety Collectors online reference. This is most likely the last time that such a large number of plate coins will be assembled into one auction and made available to the community.

A reminder that most of the August 23 auction lots will be available at the Oklahoma City ANA show for viewing immediately prior to that event opening for bidding on the final day of the show.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The National Weather service has issued an Extreme Heat advisory which means that I will be working in the GFRC office for most of the day. This is the final full day of Renee's family staying at the homestead with flights back to Austin scheduled for Tuesday morning. Hopefully their outgoing flight will not be disrupted by thunderstorms that will roll through the region starting Tuesday noon time.

So ends today's Blog edition. I will be in the office processing the LaSalle Liberty Seated quarter images and loading this entire lot into the COIN system followed by preparing a pricing proposal for our client to approve. A few of the CAC approved quarters will be placed into the August 23 auction given their significance.

As always, thank you for the time taken to visit with me and taking in the Fortin family adventures. Diane's Take a Hike T-shirts were way cool and a complete surprise.

Be well!

July 6, 2025

July 4th Weekend Holiday - Hanging Out at Androscoggin Lake

and

Presenting the LaSalle Liberty Seated Quarter Consignment

Greetings on a July 4th weekend early Sunday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for checking in on a long holiday weekend.

Southern Maine weather has been picture perfect for this weekend's July 4th holiday activities. After a thoroughly busy Friday for the grandchildren, the Fortin clan headed to Androscoggin Lake on Saturday for the annual Theriault family summer party. The venue is Rachel and Mike's summer "camp", a venue that has been in the family for several generations. Rachel is Diane's younger sister. So off we went in two cars for a one hour drive to Leeds, Maine for an afternoon of lakeside activities and catching up with the extended family. During the drive back to Raymond, we stopped in Auburn and purchased a 2+ lbs piece of salmon that turned into our grilled dinner. By 9:00 PM, I was in bed knowing that Sunday would bring an early start for a more "normal" Daily Blog edition.

Here we are with the day's ramblings....

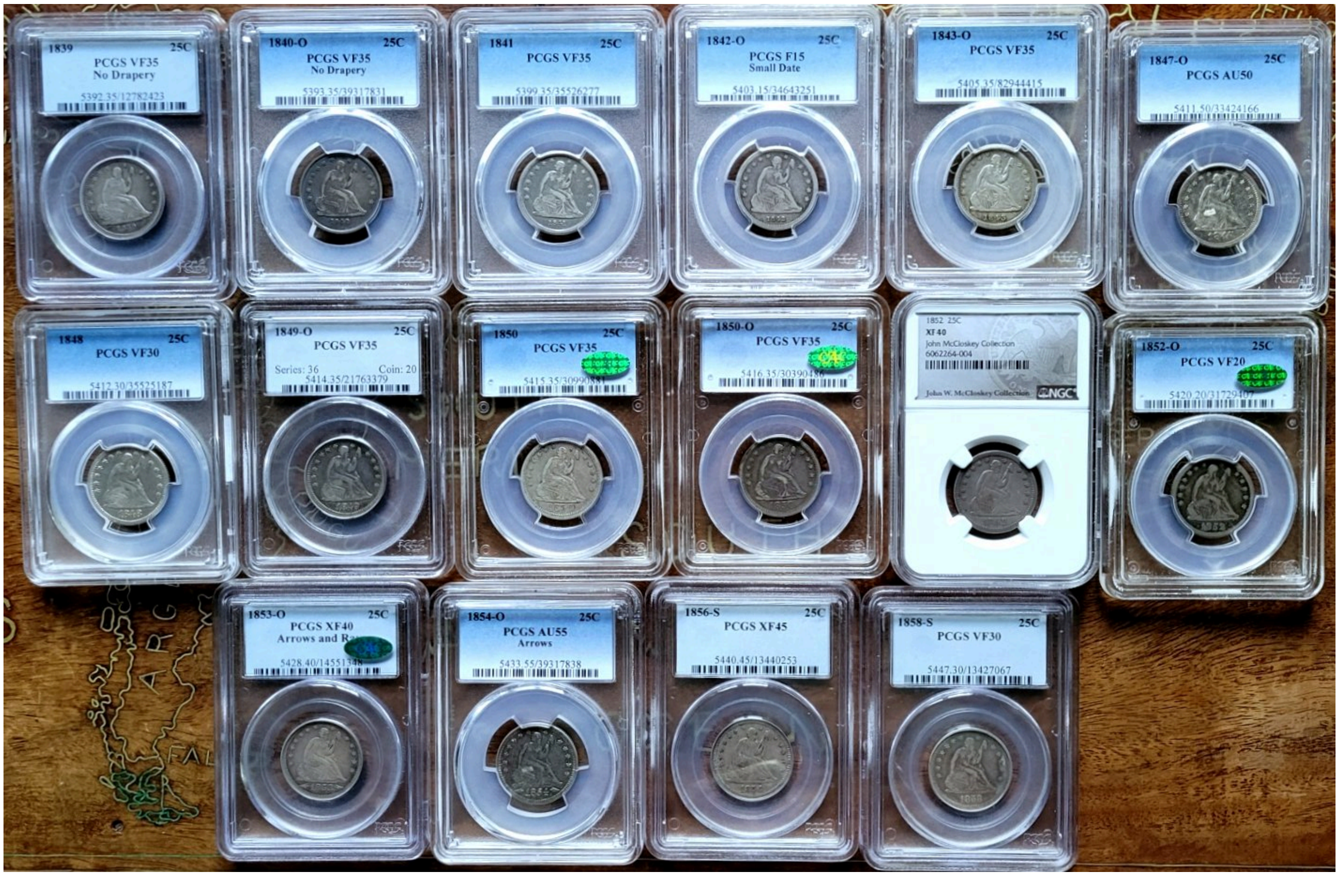
Let's open with an image taken by Chikae Yamatin, Matt's wife, of the family relaxing by the lake. Little Ayumi and Miles continues to be the main attraction as their first playtime visit to the Theriault camp.

Presenting the LaSalle Liberty Seated Quarter Consignment

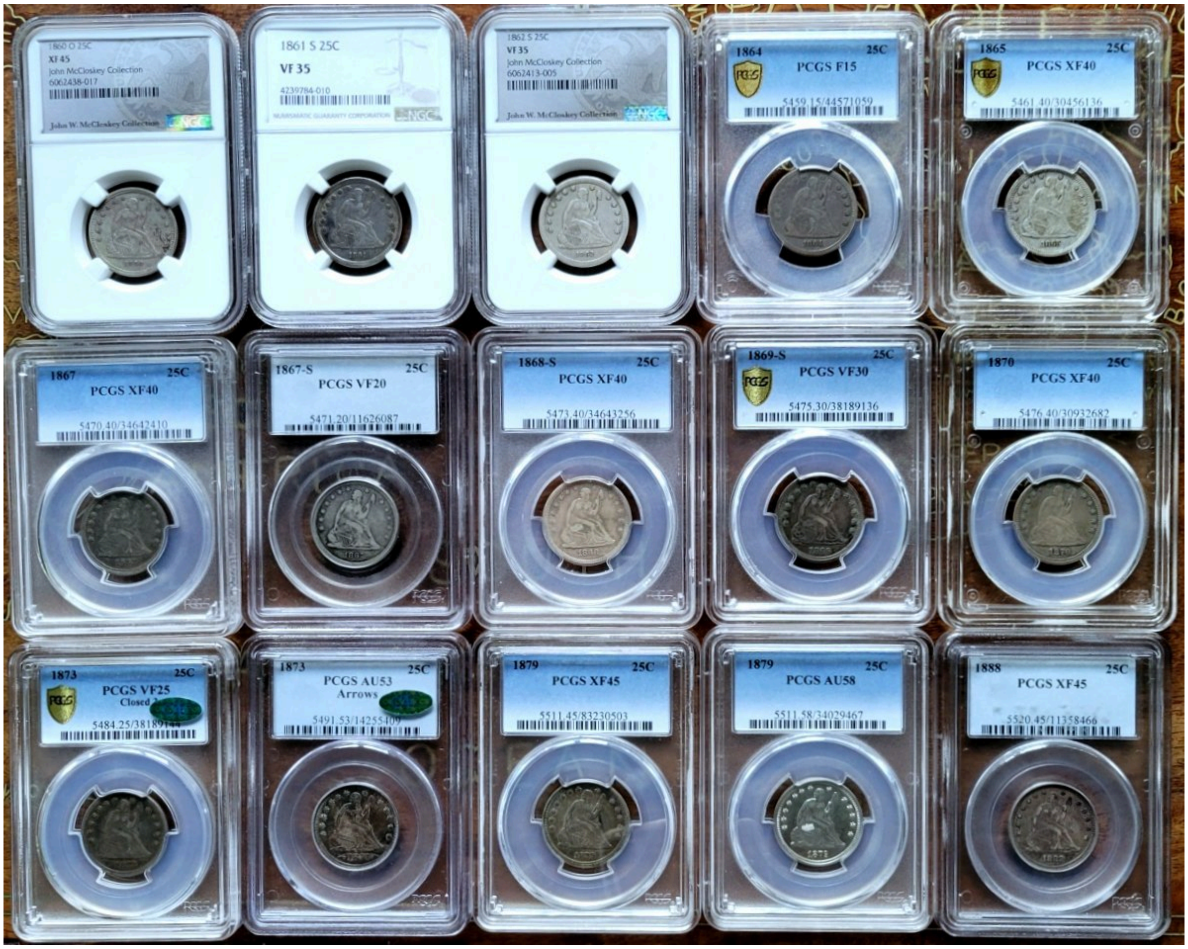
GFRC is pleased to be presenting a new consignment from the LaSalle Collection for your consideration.

The LaSalle Collection consignor has been a client since 2016 with an emphasis on Liberty Seated quarter set building. Today brings a preview of his recently transported consignment that includes a wide range of better dates with consistent originality. Seated quarter collectors may wish to conduct a close inspection of the preview images as there are many important offerings.

The early dates of note include a lovely 1840-O No Drapery with a complete strike and natural coin gray surfaces followed by an 1842-O Small Date lot at an affordable PCGS F15 grade. The key date, within this consignment, is of course the 1849-O quarter graded PCGS VF35 that should draw considerable attention. The New Orleans mint continues to be well presented with an 1850-O that is a sweet crusty original example, a perfectly original 1852-O, and a very choice 1853-O, all with CAC approval. The first group photo closes out with a lovely 1856-S quarter with antique coin gray toning followed by a nicely detailed 1858-S. As with all GFRC preview images, clicking on the image will provide access to a higher resolution version.



Moving into the Civil War era, there are 1864, 1865, and 1867 Philadelphia issues with the latter warranting close scrutiny. The 1867-S is a difficult date with this VF20 graded specimen being quite desirable. This release also features the challenging 1868-S and 1869-S issues. The second major consignment highlight, after the 1849-O, is a wonderful 1873 No Arrows Closed 3 graded PCGS VF25 with CAC approval. I'm certain that this date will draw substantial attention given its mid-circulated VF25 grade certification along with a CAC green bean. The surfaces are unquestionable original with old dirt in the protected areas.


1860 O 25C
XF 45
John McCloskey Collection
6062438-017
John W. McCloskey Collection
1861 S 25C
VF 35
4239784-010
1862 S 25C
VF35
John McCloskey Collection
6062413-005
John W. McCloskey Collection
1864 25C
PCGS F15
5459.15/44571059
1865 25C
PCGS XF40
5461.40/30456136
1867 25C
PCGS XF40
5470.40/34642410
1867-S 25C
PCGS VF20
5471.20/11626087
1868-S 25C
PCGS XF40
5473.40/34643256
1869-S 25C
PCGS VF30
5475.30/38189136
1870 25C
PCGS XF40
5476.40/30932682
1873 25C
PCGS VF25
Closed
5484.25/38189144
1873 25C
PCGS AU53
Arrows
5491.53/14255409
1879 25C
PCGS XF45
5511.45/83230503
1879 25C
PCGS AU58
5511.58/34029467
1888 25C
PCGS XF45
5520.45/11358466

At this point, I have yet to make a decision on which of the above Seated quarters will be added to the August 23th GFRC Online Auction and which will be heading directly to the 30 Day Price List. This decision will be made in the coming week of so as the August 23 online auction catalog is finalized.

With today's preview presentation, it should be apparent as to why it was necessary to close the GFRC consignment window given this LaSalle consignment, the Cleveland Collection Liberty Seated dimes and yet another consignment that ships this week along with preparing a nearly 250 lots auction. Let's not forget that it is summer time in Maine and I do relish working outdoors in the back acreage park.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Another wonderful Maine summer day is in the offing with a morning family walk through the back acreage trails being on the agenda.

Photography of the final Massachusetts Collection Liberty Seated dime lots, for the August 23 auction, is also planned as the coins are staged. Once those dime images are process the closing segment of the Massachusetts collection will be posted to the online catalog. I will also photograph the LaSalle Seated quarters today.

We've covered a bit of ground in today's edition and best to close at this point. Thank you for making time for a visit to the Daily Blog during a holiday weekend.

Be well!

July 5, 2025

July 4th Weekend Holiday Continues

Greetings on a July 4th weekend Saturday! Today's Daily Blog edition will be very brief as I'm in a laid back summer holiday state of mind. Yesterday brought a host of activities with our family guests and that of the Dodson neighbor's family too.

This image sums up the day as the gang is hanging out around our back deck fire pit and cooking marshmallow prior to the coast fireworks display.

I hope that Blog readers enjoyed similar good times. Today brings more activities and fun as the Maine weather is ideal for the long holiday weekend.

Be well!

July 4, 2025

Happy July 4th 2025 Holiday!

Cleveland Collection Consignment Arrives

and

GFRC Online August 23 Auction Climbs to 212 Lots

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on the July 4th 2025 holiday. The Fortin clan wishes the entire readership a wonderful holiday weekend.

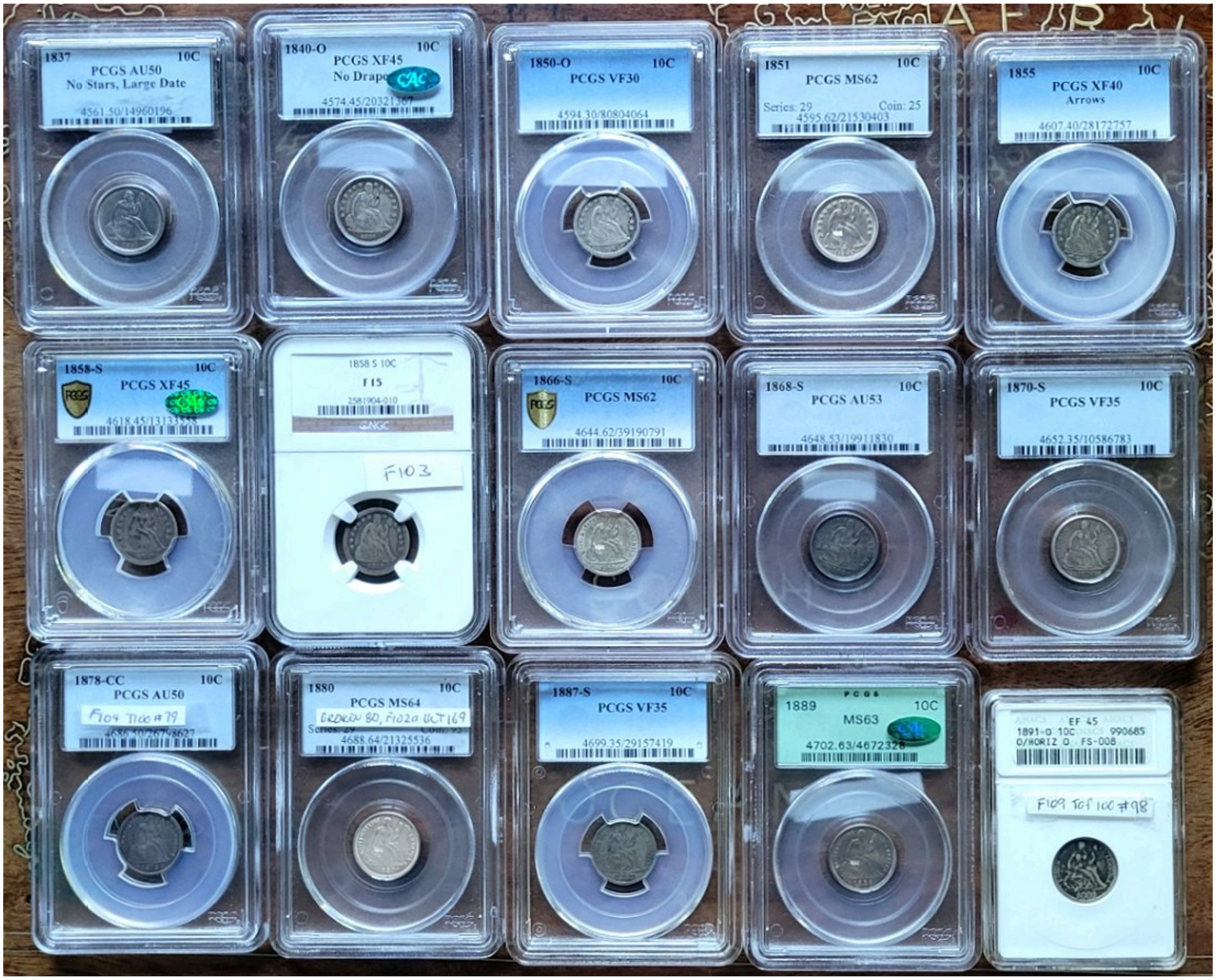
Let's be honest... My blogging motivation is low this morning but there is no where I can go in the homestead to hang out other than the GFRC office. Everyone else is sleeping in various locations and until the occupants arise, I'm pretty much confined to office. Therefore, let's provide some basic updates starting with a lovely picture taken late Thursday afternoon. Here is Tractor Grandpa with two young ladies heading for a Disney like tour of the back acreage trails that I fondly call Ledge Hill Park. From left to right is Sadie, our neighbor's granddaughter, then Ivy, Renee's daughter, and of course the tour director.

Maine weather can be most unpredictable as we know. After driving the young ladies back to the Dodson neighbor's house, I just had enough time to race to the barn before the sky opened with a huge downpour. Just imagine if my tour timing was off by just 3 minutes of so. Everyone would have been soaking wet!

To celebrate the July 4th holiday at the Ledge Hill Park, there will be more Polaris UTV rides, a wet slide event, and finally, a model rocket launch before everyone settles in for the evening coastal fireworks that can be view from the back deck.

Cleveland Collection Consignment Arrives

GFRC's Liberty Seated dime inventory will again see refresh as the Cleveland Collection has decided to release a PCGS blue box loaded with duplicates. This release is die variety centric and will post to the 30 Day Price List at some point in July. Please note the host of old PCGS blue label holders in this offering with each lot being a better or Top 100 variety. It is certainly an opportunistic time to be a Liberty Seated dime collector given this Cleveland Collection release and the Massachusetts and Tenafly Collection offering in the forthcoming August 23 auction.


1837 10C PCGS AU50 No Stars, Large Date
1840-O 10C PCGS XF45 No Drapery
1850-O 10C PCGS VF30
1851 10C PCGS MS62
1855 10C PCGS XF40 Arrows
1858-S 10C PCGS XF45
1858 S 10C F 15
F103
1866-S 10C PCGS MS62
1868-S 10C PCGS AU53
1870-S 10C PCGS VF35
1878-CC 10C PCGS AU50
F104 T100 #79
1880 10C PCGS MS64
1887-S 10C PCGS VF35
1889 MS63 10C
EF 45 1891-O 10C O/HORIZ O FS-008
F109 Tof 100 #98

GFRC Online August 23 Auction Climbs to 212 Lots

Regardless of the Fortin family visit, I was able to spend a few hours in the GFRC office wrapping up the Liberty Seated quarter and half dollar lots for the August 23 auction. Those lots are now posted with a subset having listed reserves.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings seasonal Maine temperatures with a decent breeze. The latter is important for keeping the bugs away when hanging outdoors.

My first task of the day is heading to the barn and searching through many plastic totes to locate suitable model rockets for today's launch. Flying model rockets on a small lot is always challenging in terms of retrieval. Sure, blasting off large rockets with D engines is way cool, but the possibility of retrieval is limited. A wholesome launch requires that the full loop is achieved, therefore finding the right rockets with streamer recovered and powered by smaller Estes engines will be the goal.

So ends today's Blog edition as the family members have arose and are ready for breakfast. Your blogger has been up since 5:00 AM, and now that the Daily Blog is published, I'm heading for a shower and then the barn to prepare for the outdoor day.

Thank you as always for the visit.

Be well!

July 3, 2025

GFRC Online Auctions - August 23 Auction Catalog Reaches 195 Lots

How Large is the August 23 Auction Event?

and

Silver Makes Another Run at $37 Mark

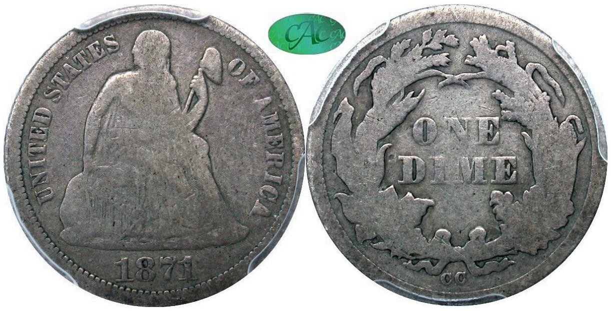
Greetings on a Thursday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for staying close to our ongoing numismatic and personal adventures.

The Fortin clan, other than yours truly, is sound asleep here at the homestead. The transition from a quiet house to one filled with grandchildren was dramatic. The new KICK Triplex gaming table was a major hit as the foosball platform saw much initial usage. As good as I thought I was, Matt is that much faster and better. After dinner, Matt and I retreated to the sun room to catch up on his Thermo Fisher Scientific career and what lies next. Spending one on one time with Matt is always priceless.

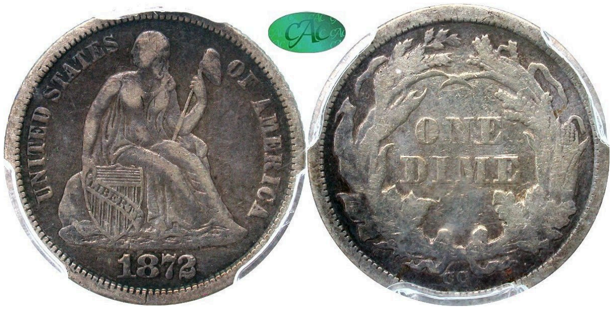
Before the clan's arrival, the afternoon was spent loading another tranche of Liberty Seated Dimes from the Massachusetts Collection. At this point, the big four Carson City dates are posted and featured next. Every complete Liberty Seated dime collection is judged by the quality of these four dates. In his set, Tom Coulombe choose quality surfaces over label grades for the his additions. Note the strict originality of these circulated pieces that resulted in CAC green beans being awarded for the 1871-CC through 1873-CC issues. As for the 1874-CC date, I know first hand the struggles to locate a suitable piece to finally complete his lifelong hobby project. The availability of CAC approved 1874-CC dimes is very limited and further complicated by a targeted price range. Tom ultimately decided to purchase the Steve Vitale Collection specimen from a March 2023 GFRC Online Auctions event. At that moment, decades of effort to assemble a premier Seated dime collection had been concluded much to his excitement.

Massachusetts Collection - Seated Dime Carson City Dates

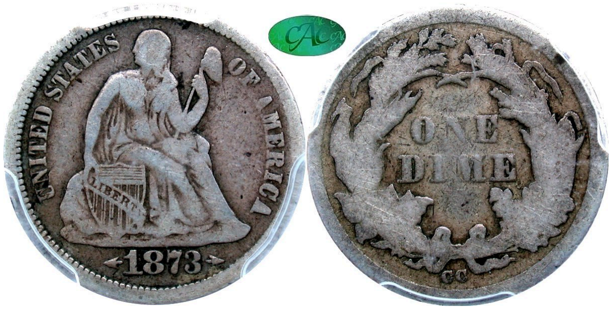
1871-CC PCGS VG08 CAC 10C - $9500



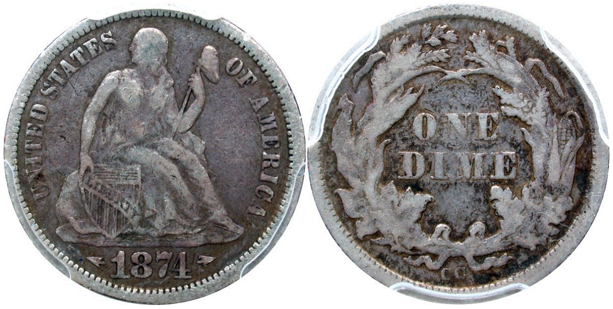
1872-CC PCGS VF25 CAC 10C - $7000



1873-CC Arrows PCGS F12 CAC 10C - $8500



1874-CC PCGS VF25 10C - $23500



How Large is the August 23 Auction Event?

For giggles, I did a quick tally of the remaining August 23 auction lots that still need attention and posting. That number is 45 incremental lots that will be added to the online catalog within the next week leading to a 240 lot event. This number does not include any pieces from the LaSalle Liberty Seated quarter consignment that recently arrived. I have full discretion to pick and choose which lots will be placed into the auction and those that will post directly to the 30 Day Price List.

Silver Makes Another Run at $37 Mark

One of the mainstay website links on my Google browser is the Kitco Metal website, specifically the real time monitoring of silver and gold prices. Though I am not a bullion dealer, my investment in precious metal ETFs and mining stocks is substantial, therefore price movements are always of interest.

Silver peaked at $37.05 on June 16, 2025 followed by retreating to the high $35 level afterwards. This morning's London trading sees silver moving back to the $37 level with a 7:00 AM quote at $36.85.

Gold is oscillating around the $3350 level with Trump placing incremental pressure on Jerome Powell to resign as Federal Reserve Chair. It appears that a new tactic is being employed to encourage Powell to resign his post. Trump's housing regulator, Bill Pulte of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, is accusing Powell of lying to Congress over a $2.5B renovation to the Federal Reserve HQ in Washington DC. Such is life inside the I-495 Beltway.

Finally, the U.S. dollar is in trouble as this morning's quote is down to 96.80. A sharply falling dollar will have positive impacts on overseas revenues and profits for U.S. companies. However, foreign investors in U.S. equity markets are taking a substantial FX hit and could decide to reallocate their money to other countries. A falling U.S. dollar is also bullish for precious metals as it takes more dollars to purchase the same ounce of gold or silver. Let's remember that the value of gold is not incrementing but rather that the U.S. dollar is falling.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Honestly, today's Blog was a fairly spontaneous affair as the homestead was quiet. Now that the 8:00 AM publishing time is approaching, our guests are starting to arise from their overnight rest.

Tomorrow brings the July 4th holiday with great fireworks viewing from our back deck once darkness sets in.

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

July 2, 2025

GFRC-Lite - Raleigh NC Show Report

A GFRC Consignment Preview

and

GFRC Online Auctions - All Tenafly Collection Lots are Posted

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog. It is a Wednesday morning with just hours remaining before the Fortin clan reunites at the Raymond homestead. Thank you for the visit.

The stage is set with the refrigerator completely stuff along with the pantry holding dry goods. Sleeping bags are airing out in the basement and the 718 Boxster is has a new indoor car cover along with being protected by Styrofoam panels. Do you think the latter is overkill? Think again, as our neighbor's granddaughter, Sadie, decided it would be a good idea to use a rock as a drawing instrument on the side of his mother's and grandparent's cars. I'll take being proactive against the potential ridicule.

Much was accomplished in the GFRC office on Tuesday so let's move forward with today's headline topics.

GFRC-Lite - Raleigh NC Show Report

We are thoroughly pleased to hear that Rich Hundertmark enjoyed record breaking sales at the just completed Raleigh NC show. Here is his perspective.

Hi Gerry,

The Annual Raleigh show is now in the books and I'm very happy to report record show sales for Lite.

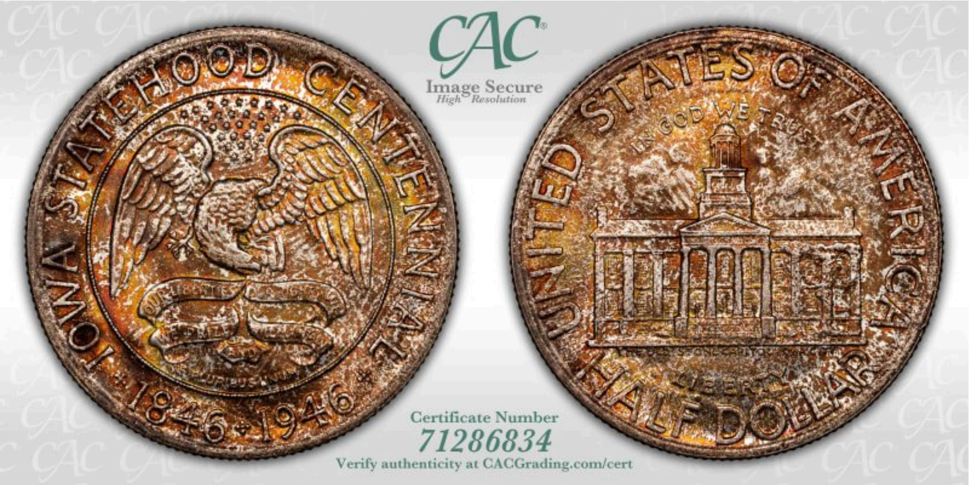
This show is held annually at the Raleigh show grounds in a large building facility that can easily accommodate 100+ dealers that are mostly from the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions.

I arrived around 3:30 PM, and I guess I knew right at the "get go" that this would be a good show as more than one dealer asked for me to let them go through my inventory boxes. That didn't work for me, so after about a 30-minute setup, the Lite table was descended upon by multiple dealers, either Early bird or bourse table holders. What would be a good analogy? Maybe when I was fishing the Long Island Sound years ago and would witness the water "boiling over" with a bluefish feeding frenzy on bunker bait fish.

By 6 o'clock gaps could be seen in Lite's inventory cases, most notably in the large denomination silver case which houses Seated, Bust, Morgans and Classic commemoratives material. At that point finally I was able to enjoy a bit of the great barbecue spread that the Raleigh Club provides for dealers. Thankfully, things then slowed, I secured the Lite table and headed for my nearby Hyatt hotel room.

Heading into Friday and Saturday I wondered how well the show would be attended by the public with temperatures headed into the high 90's. As it turned out, there were no worries, as the public came out in numbers. The bourse had a steady traffic flow with a solid Friday followed by an amazing Saturday.

By my count Lite sold over 50 coins, 30 of which I've just now taken down from the Lite website. What made this show so successful is that Lite's Average Selling price has more than doubled since its' inception, a testament to the inventory's increased quality.



On the buying side, Lite was able to make a few key purchases. How about this CACG MS67+ Iowa GEM commemorative offered at $450. It's just one of 3 to receive this lofty grade by CACG and displays full strike with lustrous russet gold toning accented by hints of sea green. Lite will be posting additional show purchases over the next few weeks so please kindly stop by. The recently added "**New Purchases Last 30 Days"** category on the Lite home page will make it much easier for visitors to find the new additions. I'll also add a blog or two, topics TBD.

The only downside to the show is that the raw inventory showed slower sales, and I take full blame for that. With only one smaller case allocated to this inventory I decided to employ vinyl pages ring binder style. This decision was a failure, as collectors weren't curious enough to see what was underneath the top page. Lesson learned! On Saturday I purchased 4 display trays to house raw coins in both 2" and 1 1/2" flips. At the upcoming July Annandale show I will dedicate a large case that will efficiently display almost 200 raw coins.

Next up for Lite is the Annandale show in Northern Virginia followed by the Oklahoma City August ANA where I will be a table assistant for GFRC and will spend time on the bourse buying and selling for Lite and my own collection.

I'll end with a "feel good" story. On Friday a Lincoln Cent collector located the key date 1914-D PCGS VF-35 in the Lite case. It was one of only 3 coins left for his set. He kindly asked if he could leave a cash $100 deposit and pay the balance early Saturday afternoon. I pulled the coin from the display inventory and told the client absolutely no problem, the coin would be waiting for him the next day. On Saturday the collector promptly showed up. His facial expression, as he moved his new prize under the table lighting is what this hobby is all about, and a good part of the payout I receive for my efforts.

Wishing all the blogamaniacs a great 4th of July, God Bless America, and many thanks for reading.

Rich

A GFRC Consignment Preview

Yes, the GFRC consignment window is presently closed but there are still two incremental shipments heading to the office. I'd like to showcase a nicely diverse consignment with most of these forthcoming arrivals having CAC approval coupled with a fair number being sourced from GFRC. Those can be researched in the Sales Archive.

25c 1805 PCGS VG08 CAC

25c 1882 PCGS F12 CAC - GFRC

50c 1834 PCGS AU58 CAC

50c 1841-O PCGS EF40 CAC - GFRC

50c 1844-O Seated Liberty PCGS VF30 CAC

$1 1847 Seated Liberty PCGS AU58 - GFRC Online Auction

$2.5 1855 PCGS AU55 CAC - GFRC

$10 1907 NM PCGS MS61 CAC

$20 1908 NM PCGS MS63 CAC

GFRC Online Auctions - All Tenafly Collection Lots are Posted

Ongoing progress is being made with the construction of the August 23 online auction catalog. Simply click on this link (Auction) for a quick transfer to the catalog and its present status that includes 171 lots.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the entire Tenafly Collection lot has been posted including a wonderful run of $5 Liberty gold that is worth the time to preview.

Today brings attention to the balance of the Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection plus photography of lots that were sourced outside of GFRC.

Wrapping Up The Blog

A nearly full office day is in the cards as we attempt to make incremental progress with the August 23 auction lot postings before Matt and Renee's families arrive during mid to late afternoon. Diane left early for Boston to spend the day with Renee's family as they visit the Children's Museum followed by transporting the Yamatins to Maine since our Boston urban dwellers do not own a car.

As for Thursday morning's Blog, I'm certain there will be an edition but the content may be limited.

As always, we appreciate the visit along with GFRC purchases. Thanks again and be well moving into the July 4th weekend holiday.

July 1, 2025

The 1993 Miata Has a New Home

The Stage is Set for Fortin Family Visit

and

S&P 500 at Record High - Gold Consolidating

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog as July 2025 is upon us. Yes, we are officially in the third quarter of the year for investors and business managers. Thank you for the visit.

My apology for yesterday's spur of the moment need to pass on composing a Blog edition. I won't go into details but the time taken to resolve the sudden issue was well used. By 10:00 AM, shipping was delivered to the Raymond post office. Once back home, a fine young adult from Old SayBrook, Connecticut appeared to close on the 1993 Mazda Miata purchase. Yes, we located this buyer on Facebook with both parties happy with the transaction. I took the Miata for one final drive before handing over the keys and title for cash payment. Life moves on with one less vehicle in the driveway along with the need for scheduled maintenance and upkeep.

Monday brought a wonderful Maine sunny day which was ideal for incremental August 23 auction photograph. The last of the Tenafly Collection's $5 Liberty gold was imagined and will be posted today. At this point, all the Tenafly lots will be online for your review. Incremental Liberty Seated quarter and half dollar lots, for the same auction, were also photographed. Before processing these, I will be returning to the Massachusetts Collection and posting the remaining lots in his noteworthy collection. The August 23 auction event is not that far away.....

The Stage is Set for Fortin Family Visit

After closing the Miata sale and photography, the balance of my day was spent outdoors preparing the grounds for the Fortin family reunion. While this was taking place, Diane was busy preparing the bedrooms and converting the TV room is a play area for the two youngest clan member, Miles and Ayumi. Since having a large storage area above the garage, we've held on to a portion of Matt and Renee's toys for the next generation. Those were retrieved and washed.

For an outdoor activities perspective, the delayed badminton set is due to arrive tomorrow and will be promptly installed. The new Polaris Kinetic Ranger UTV is fully charged and the trails are mostly fool proofed from rocks and overhanging branches. The pond area has been cleaned with the water quality being transparent to the bottom rocks. Remaining is washing Johnny2 and sweeping the barn today as grandson Miles is a huge fan of construction equipment toys. This will be his chance to sit in Tractor Grandpa's lap and operate the Johnny2's backhoe.

S&P 500 at Record High - Gold Consolidating

For all the talk of an over valued equities market and potential recession in the works, the S&P 500 is now at a new record level of 6205. Gold, on the other hand, has been in a consolidation channel between $3300 - $3400 during the past weeks. In terns of precious metals, silver is trading above $36/oz with the upward trend appearing to stall out at the $37 mark. Those of us who are dreaming of silver at $40 will need to dream for a bit longer. Platinum has been on a strong rally with the morning quote at $1346/oz. Do you remember the time frame when gold and platinum were roughly priced the same?

What is my take on the current investment situation along with the United State fiscal matters?

To be succinct, the worry about finding buyers for U.S. debt has been resolved. The Federal Reserve and the *to big to fail banks* will be stepping in to absorb U.S. deficit spending. All the talk of potentially higher 10 year Treasury bond yields has resulted in the opposite with the current quote being 4.2%. Buying a bond fund at 4.5% would have been a wise move in hindsight.

U.S. fiscal policy will not change much with ongoing deficit spending being a given. Deficit spending and the Federal Reserve printing money to absorb the debt will increase the money supply. Past history indicates that this newly created money will be heading into the equity market. Therefore, U.S. stocks could go on another bull run.

However, creating more money will drive inflation, the extent being unknown. The U.S. dollar is falling, a plan by the Trump administration, to stimulate exports. However, a weak U.S. dollar is bullish for inflation as the cost of imported goods will climb.

So how does gold fit into these new realizations.

Firstly, if investors believe that equities will continue to rally, monies will move from bonds and gold into equities. The name of the game is momentum with the sector having the higher momentum attracting the most money.

Secondly, gold is still being supported by central bank buying and sovereign wealth funds purchases. The amount of available physical gold on the LBMA and COMEX continues to shrink to support their paper market casino. Over the longer term (into 2026), gold should still do well with revised forecasts of $3700 to $4000 being seen.

The wild card is China and BRICS and their push to establish an alternate financial trading system with settlements back by physical gold. China plays the long game and has begun to establish gold storage facilities outside of the mainland with Hong Kong being the first gold vault. Already in place, is the Shanghai Gold Exchange (SGE) as a direct competitor to the London Exchange (LBMA) and COMEX here in the United States. The fact that China is building infrastructure for gold trading signals its intentions to eventually back the Yuan with gold. Gold is also a major financial holding of the Chinese citizenry which means that the Chinese Communist Party must carefully manage the price of gold upward to ensure that the population has a go to investment vehicle.

Investment choices are a function of age and expected lifespan. Personally, at age 69, I'm no longer in the equity markets to hit home runs. Minimizing risks while keeping up with inflation are the imperatives.

While composing this Blog edition, gold has moved up $45/oz to nearly $3350 on the first day of Q3'2025 during LBMA trading. This is certainly bullish for the next few hours before U.S trading kicks in. If researching the gold trading patterns, gold will typical move up during overnight trading in Shanghai and be knock down when trading during United States business hours.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Yes, I know that there was little mention of GFRC offerings in this edition. Hopefully tomorrow Blog will have some new content as several consignments are in transit along with the LaSalle 31 piece Seated quarter lot quietly sitting on my desk and seeking attention.

Today brings mostly an office day as showers are forecasted throughout the day with thunderstorms due by early evening.

Thank you again for making the Daily Blog a regular part of your online presence.

Be well!

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